



DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

WORLD & REGIONAL ISSUES

Weekly 'International Observers Roundtable'	CC 1
[Andrianov, Volskiy, Nekrasov]	
European Response to Carter	CC 1
U.S. Mideast Policy	CC 2
U.S.-Japanese Relations	CC 3
British Policy in Rhodesia	CC 4
U.S. Election Politics	CC 5
Waldheim Forms Commission To Study Charges Against Shah	CC 7
Further Report	CC 7
Waldheim Meeting with Vance	CC 7
PRAVDA Scores Western Stance at UNIDO Conference	CC 8

UNITED STATES & CANADA

Afghan Rebel Nasiri Helds Washington Press Conference	A 1
[PRAVDA 16 Feb]	
Commentator: CIA Supplying Arms to Afghan Rebels	A 1
[Baratov]	
Denial of Aid to Afghan Groups Dismissed	A 2
Remarks by Carter, Bani-Sadr on U.S. Hostages in Tehran	A 3
Matveyev Assails U.S. Plans for Broader Mideast Presence	A 4
[IZVESTIYA 8 Feb]	
Kornilov: U.S. Plans To Use Norway as 'Military Arsenal'	A 5
Desire To Preserve Gains in U.S.-USSR Relations Noted	A 5
[Shishlin]	

CHINA

Reports on 'High-Level Purge' in PRC Cited	B 1
TASS Analyst Terms PRC's Foreign Policy as Aggressive	B 1
[Yakovlev]	

NORTHEAST ASIA

Arkhipov, DPRK Vice Premier Hold Talks	C 1
Japanese Socialist Party Congress Opens	C 1
[Vdovin in PRAVDA 9 Feb]	
Mongolia, USSR Sign Broadcasting Cooperation Protocol	C 1

SOUTH ASIA

Further Reportage, Commentary on Gromyko's Visit to India	D 1
Report of Visit [PRAVDA 13 Feb]	D 1
Sergeyev Commentary	D 5
Indian 'Satisfaction'	D 6
IZVESTIYA Cites Afghan-Indian Statement on Kabul Talks	D 6
[13 Feb]	
Afghanistan's Karmal Chairs Council of Ministers Session	D 7
Karmal Meets Palestinian Delegation	D 7
Interview With Afghanistan's Keshtmand Cited	D 8
Afghan Minister Stresses Importance of Agricultural Tasks	D 8
[Lapskiy in IZVESTIYA 13 Feb]	
USSR Supplies Afghans With Materials for Spring Sowing	D 9
Afghan Tribal Leader Welcomes Soviet Assistance	D 9
Afghan Youth Group Appreciates 'Unselfish' Soviet Aid	D 9
BAKHITAR Denies 'Fabrications' About Kabul Clashes	D 10
Afghanistan's April Revolution Experiencing 'Difficulties'	D 10
[Bazilevich]	
Soviet-Afghan Cinematography Protocol Signed	D 10

SOUTHEAST ASIA & PACIFIC

Further Reportage on Heng Samrin Visit to USSR	E 1
Tbilisi Talks with Shevardnadze	E 1
[ZARYA VOSTOKA 5 Feb]	
Leningrad Talks with Romanov	E 3
[LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA 8 Feb]	
Editorial: Results of Visit	E 3
[IZVESTIYA 13 Feb]	
Ships Begin Delivery of Gratis Aid to Kampuchea	E 5

EASTERN EUROPE

Eighth PZPR Congress Ends; New Politburo Elected	F 1
Babich New Premier	F 2
CPSU Central Committee Greetings	F 2
[PRAVDA 11 Feb]	
Return of Suslov Delegation	F 3
TANJUG Cited: Tito's Condition Remains Grave	F 3
Yugoslav-GDR Communique Stresses Detente, Disarmament	F 3
Kulikov Sees Zhivkov, Todorov in Sofia	F 3
[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 7 Feb]	

WESTERN EUROPE

Vance Visit To Try 'To Smooth Out Differences' with Paris	G 1
IZVESTIYA Ridicules UK Attempts To Pressure Soviet Union	G 1
[Skosyrev, 10 Feb]	
Thatcher 'Hysterically, Cynically' Backs Olympic Boycott	G 2
DPA: APN Accuses FRG of Violating Berlin Agreement	G 3
[Hamburg]	

Italian Christian Democrats Balk at Coalition with CP	G	3
[Smironov]		
Ponomarev Meets with Italian CP Aides Ingrao, Ciofi	G	4
Academician Discusses Prospects for Madrid Conference	G	4
[Gallego-Diaz in Madrid EL PAIS 10 Feb]		

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

Ayatollah Khomeyni Thanks Brezhnev for Greetings	H	1
[PRAVDA 16 Feb]		
Iran's Bani-Sadr Comments on Conditions for Hostages' Release	H	1
Italian TV Interview	H	1
NEWSWEEK Interview	H	1
Qotbzadeh Views Hostage Situation; Note to Waldheim on Canada	H	2
Anti-U.S. Thrust Viewed in Iran Revolution Celebrations	H	2
[Akhmedzyanov in IZVESTIYA 13 Feb]		
Iran Requests Aid for Khuzestan Flood Victims	H	3
Dmitriyev Comments on Opening of Israeli Embassy in Cairo	H	4
Egyptian Progressive Party Protests Normal Ties With Israel	H	4
Syrian Official Denounces Egyptian-Israeli Agreement	H	5
[Zhudro]		
Further Reportage on Syrian Delegation's Moscow Visit	H	6
Departure for Home	H	6
Joint Communique [PRAVDA 13 Feb]	H	6
Commentary on Talks	H	9

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

POLITICAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

PRAVDA Reports 13 Feb Ustinov Speech to Kovrov Voters	R	1
[14 Feb]		
Gromyko Comments on Foreign Issues in Election Speech	R	6
Appointments, Elections Reported in Soviet Regional Press	R	13
Imam Discusses Religious Freedom for Muslims in USSR	R	14
Grishin, Kuznetsov, Yasnov, Georgadze Present Awards	R	15

AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

Radio Reports Agricultural Developments for 13-16 February	T	1
13 February	T	1
14 February	T	1
16 February	T	1
High Vegetable Prices Reduce Private Plot Stockraising	T	1
[Labyak in PRAVDA 4 Feb]		

WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

LD171826 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD

["International Observers' Roundtable" program with Boris Andrianov, all union radio commentator; Dmitriy Antonovich Volskiy, member of the editorial collegium of the weekly NOVOYE VREMYA; and Vadim Nikolayevich Nekrasov, observer of the journal KOMMUNIST]

[Text] [Andrianov] The events of this week serve as yet another proof that for the people of the world there can now be no more important common concern than the concern over how to overcome the tension which once again is clouding international relations, a tension which has arisen through the fault of Washington, which has today decided to chase its West European allies into the trenches of the cold war.

European Response to Carter

The White House is demanding that they become coparticipants in American actions which are disorganizing the normal life of the international community and are impairing its security. Washington is insisting that its West European partners actively join in the economic blackmail by the United States against the Soviet Union and go over to a position of confrontation with our country. In this the absolutist ways of Washington, which obviously takes for granted that it has the right to speak on behalf of its allies in West Europe without even regarding it necessary to consult them, are manifesting themselves more and more openly.

[Nekrasov] Last week, in this sphere the main event was perhaps that which was connected with the attempts by Washington to influence its West European allies, attempts to nudge them onto the path of confrontation with our country and the socialist world.

At the beginning of the week, reports appeared that on 20 February there was to be a meeting in Bonn of the foreign ministers of the major capitalist countries, that is the United States of America and the main NATO allies in Europe--the FRG, France, Britain and Italy. However, a few hours later, a rebuff to this proposal came from Paris. Paris announced that it does not intend to participate in such a conference. It is interesting to note the following, comrades. The wording used by Paris, when it replied in the negative to the U.S. proposal, was: We will not take part in such a conference inasmuch as it will not help to lessen international tension. Well naturally such a reply, such a sharp presentation of the matter, evoked irritation in Washington, where at once they began to remember a whole series of transgressions in French policy with regard to American plans. Nevertheless, France is firmly adhering to its positions.

FRG Foreign Minister Genscher attempted to reconcile the positions of the two sides. In its reply to him, the West German paper STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG stated that it was useless to conceal the fact that Carter's theatre of crisis, its forms, scale and its consequences do not evoke any enthusiasm in Bonn either. Evidently the West German public realizes, as does the public of other West European countries, the fact that the present course of Washington puts under serious threat those fruits of detente which were achieved in Europe during the past few years. In Paris, for example, it was specially stressed these days that France, which in the past 4 years has tripled its trade with our country and hopes not only to keep it at the present level but also to increase it, is by no means inclined to be led on the White House leash with respect to trade or to reject a whole series of trading opportunities which it has obtained in relations with our country. Realism in politics is perhaps one of the most popular slogans in West Europe today. Realism in politics means West Europe trying to achieve good relations on the European Continent, to preserve the positive fruits of detente, to try to strengthen them. The course of the United States, in this regard, does not accommodate the leading West European countries at all.

Of course, London is an exception to this. There are not a few deliberations on this point in the press of other countries in Europe; on the question of why London has embarked on such a path. Various suppositions are being put forward. We will not hurry to come to any final conclusions; evidently, there are considerations of a political nature which are apparent here. The Conservative government is trying to follow in the footsteps of a policy which was pursued by Churchill after World War II, making Britain, as he put it, a junior partner of the United States and on this basis trying to strengthen its role in West European politics. Be that as it may, the position of London represents an exception to the general West European backdrop of present times.

U.S. Mideast Policy

[Andrianov] Vadim Nikolayevich. The Americans, however, are now exerting great pressure on their West European allies and Japan, among others, in order to harness them to its policy in the Persian Gulf, to its militaristic preparations in this region.

[Volskiy] Undoubtedly, in these preparations, of course, one can see pre-election speculation too, for in American politics one can very often see how the narrow and selfish concerns of various politicians or groups are put above national and real interests and, moreover, above the interests of international security. Even though this may be only a pre-election game in the Persian Gulf region, playing soldiers as it were, then in any case, in this region it has already become more dangerous than before and is being waged not on staff headquarter's tables but in sands and waters which are quite real.

It has been announced, for example, that in addition to the battleships which have been sent by the United States, the first contingents of marine commandos, 1800 men in all it appears, will be sent here.

[Andrianov] Incidentally, I will cite, speaking frankly, some provocative statements regarding the Persian Gulf region and the Middle East as a whole. During his last press conference, President Carter called the Middle East, including even Afghanistan, a sphere of American vital interests. Quoting from the speech by the U.S. leader, the papers write about the readiness of Washington to start a war in this region and even to make use of tactical nuclear arms. What, in your opinion, is behind all of this?

[Volskiy] Well, I would have presented the question in a slightly different way. What are the American leaders trying to achieve by whipping up tension in the Persian Gulf and the regions adjoining it? The liberation of the hostages in Tehran? It seems they have convinced themselves that other methods can be more productive than military pressure. Oil? Well, one could believe this; however, it seems that using common sense one would realize the supplies of oil would be better assured by a more tranquil situation in the Persian Gulf. At the same time, of course, tranquillity and law and order cannot have anything in common with social stagnation and the conservation of an obsolete social order, because real stability is inseparable from free development, from natural changes, social and economic progress. It seems to me that this is an axiom which has been proved in life on many occasions. Well, the whole plan, the long-term plan which shows up in the actions and utterances of Washington, proves that it wishes to upset the natural course of events in the Middle East. What proves this point?

First, the undisguised aspiration to plunge Afghanistan into unending bloodshed. At this very moment they are training--intensively training--gangs of counterrevolutionary robbers that they intend to send in the spring, when the snow melts in the mountain passes. They're even stating the supposed numerical strength of these groups; 50,000, 70,000. Some papers even write about an army of 100,000, armed with Chinese and American weapons.

Second, Pakistan is to be turned into the main military bridgehead for the entire region. What would that mean for its people? It would mean, first of all, that its hopes of a stable peace and democratic reforms, and of changes for the better in general, will be, if not buried altogether, then in any case put off for a long time. Clearly, that is fraught with an inevitable increase of social tension in Pakistan, and it's not for nothing that Pakistan is now being compared with Iran under the shah; the Americans, by arming Iran, themselves, in effect, prepared the way for events--or at least unwittingly helped to prepare events--that later led to the collapse of American domination of that country.

What of Iran itself? Here, Washington is obviously banking on provoking internal conflicts--political conflicts, say, between the students, or as they call themselves, the followers of the policy of Imam Khomeini, President Bani-Sadr's followers; and ethnic conflicts also, between Persians and the ethnic minorities. In a word, when we look at the whole region, we get the impression that Washington is deliberately and with premeditation tossing one firebrand in after another, to keep the flames going in the hotbeds of tension.

[Andrianov] But of course that's the worst possible way to promote the reliability of oil supplies from the Persian Gulf. On the contrary, it is precisely Washington's actions that are creating a real threat to such supplies. One must assume that there must be some design in this, otherwise the policy of the United States looks as if they are sawing off the branch on which the economy of the West is in large part supported.

[Volskiy] Of the West, exactly. Or rather, of the other capitalist countries, and not only, or not so much, that of the United States itself. Here lies, I think, one explanation--a partial explanation at any rate--that enables one to understand the policy of the American administration in the Middle East. After all, Japan gets 90 percent of its oil from the Middle East; West Europe, 80 percent; the United States gets far less of its oil, a mere 10 percent, from the Middle East. Hence, the calculations: By frightening their partners with the prospect of disruption of oil supplies, they're trying to tie them more tightly to the militarist plans of the United States in the Middle East and force them to join military preparations to strengthen and reinforce the U.S. military presence.

U.S.-Japanese Relations

In connection with the Pentagon's military demonstrations in the Persian Gulf, another aspect of the American military bases in Japan and the U.S. Armed Forces stationed there has come to light. It is worth recalling that both Washington and Tokyo have tried to use their so-called security pact to justify the deployment of American forces in the Japanese Islands. That pact, as you know, was concluded 20 years ago. At that time, international relations were going through one of the periods of the unlamented cold war. American and Japanese reactionary circles were then actively whipping up the myth of some threat to the security of Japan and to peace in the Far East. It was in those circumstances that the security pact came into being. One of the provisions of that document was that there should be American forces on Japanese soil. Their purpose, so both sides averred, was purely regional. The troops, it was said, would participate in protecting Japan's security and peace in the Far East from armed attack from outside. In the two decades that have passed since then we have seen with our own eyes, and very convincingly, how totally unfounded, to put it mildly, are the arguments that were adduced to justify the signing of the notorious security pact. At the same time the 20 years that have elapsed have, as the world public has seen, been literally crammed with a multitude of events that have incontrovertibly proved that the American-Japanese alliance itself, which the pact set up, is the source of not a mythical but most real and serious threat to stability and peace in the Far East. That fact, by the way, has been noted by the broadest circles of the Japanese public, which have been protesting against their country being drawn into the wake of the U.S. policy of aggressive adventures.

[Nekrasov] I think that current events give us solid reasons, very solid, the most solid, you could say, to remember the apprehensions that were being voiced 20 years ago by the democratic forces of Japan in this connection. You will remember that at that time they were already warning that Washington was capable of willfully enlarging the sphere of operation of the American-Japanese security treaty. We now see how well-founded those warnings were. Today, in the present situation, they take on special meaning.

[Andrianov] Yes. The Pentagon is now thinking of transferring from the Japanese island of Okinawa U.S. Marines included in the so-called quick reaction force and sending them into the Persian Gulf. That is, the transatlantic strategists intend to use the U.S. military bases in Japan as a bridgehead for aggression against the independent states of the Near and Middle East. Perhaps it's hardly necessary to explain how dangerous these plans are, fraught with the most serious and far-reaching consequences, for Japan itself as well. What is Tokyo's attitude toward these plans? They have been received there at least with approval. How else can one interpret the statement by Japanese Prime Minister Ohira that the United States has the right to use as they see fit their military installations in Japan and are free to transfer the forces stationed on them to other regions? The head of the Japanese Government cites the security treaty we mentioned earlier, asserting that, from the point of view of that document, he sees no problems with the use of Japanese territory by U.S. Armed Forces during their transfer. By guaranteeing such freedom of action to the Pentagon, the Japanese administration is assuming a heavy responsibility for what amounts to supporting the adventurist impulses of the American military. In this whole enterprise both Washington and Tokyo have once again shown the true meaning of the security pact, laying bare their calculations connected with the American military bases in Japan, which have long occupied an important place in the Pentagon's plans of global aggression.

[Volskiy] Here's what I should like to add at this point to what you have said, Boris Vasil'yevich: This very fact, this attention that the United States is paying to its positions in Japan, and in general the attempts to bind Japan more closely to its adventurist policy, shows that overall in the course the United States is now pursuing, it is still trying to coordinate things. Interestingly enough, the Japanese and the West Europeans are being persuaded that they must help American actions in the Persian Gulf, but not help obligatorily, and not perhaps just directly, by sending military contingents, shall we say, or taking part in establishing permanent naval forces there, but rather by accepting a considerably greater burden of military expenditure and the enlargement of their armies, and so on: the West European countries in West Europe and Japan, correspondingly, in the Far East. That is the sort of global distribution of roles that Washington is now trying to implement and is overcoming, in the process, not a little resistance and opposition by fairly influential circles in the West that think realistically.

British Policy in Rhodesia

True, Vadim Nikolayevich has rightly reminded us of Britain, of Churchill. Indeed, the behests of Churchill are now affecting many aspects of British politics. I think they can be felt even in the fact that Churchill's son-in-law, Lord Soames, was sent as governor of Rhodesia. His late father-in-law once said that he did not become prime minister to preside over the dissolution of the British Empire. Now Lord Soames can say roughly the same thing: that he has not become governor of Rhodesia to preside over the transfer of power to the African patriots, the African majority of the population. All his actions in Rhodesia show that the British Government is at pains, evidently in agreement with American ruling circles and with the Republic of South Africa, to stop the genuinely patriotic forces from coming to power.

They are banking before the elections, which have been set for the Africans for 27 and 29 February, on two possibilities. One is to elbow out the Patriotic Front and Nkomo's and Mugabe's parties using any method, including assassination attempts. There have recently been several attempts on Mugabe's life, for instance. That's one way. The other boils down to something else: to provoking clashes between the various groups of the patriotic forces, preventing their unity of action and the coordination of their forces. There was an important meeting between Nkomo and Mugabe this week at which it seems decisions were made to act jointly. The details of the conditions that were worked out at this meeting are still not clear but the nature of this meeting and the tendency which manifested itself seem to me to be considerably reassuring to the patriotic forces of Rhodesia. It may be that South Africa and Rhodesia are not now the hottest place in the world, but hot enough. Nevertheless, the situation there is linked up with the general international situation. In particular, it is a known fact, for instance, that the South African racists welcome all those tendencies in Washington's policies which have manifested themselves recently and Washington's aspiration to undermine the relaxation of tension. Thus, as we can see, everything in the world is interconnected. I think that the time has now come for us to talk about American affairs, about the particularly interesting internal political situation in this country.

U.S. Election Politics

[Nekrasov] Yes, it determines to a considerable extent the present turn toward confrontation and toward exacerbating tension, of which both we and you are witnesses. You know, comrades, that in this connection many things point to the fact that this turn-about is connected with the presidential election campaign which is getting off the ground in the United States. As a matter of fact, one can say that there are of course a lot of good reasons for all this. Such an ambitious person as the present American President has apparently staked all today solely on being re-elected. Carter is carrying out a definite social mandate.

Not so long ago we had an opportunity to familiarize ourselves with the memoirs of former President Nixon. One place in these memoirs attracts attention today, for it characterizes well the reasons for the present turnabout. Here is what Nixon wrote in his memoirs: By early spring 1973, we, that is Washington and the White House, became fully convinced that the Soviets had effectively embarked on a firm course aimed at relaxing tension. Our military establishment, he says, panicked that during the coming summit talks with the Russians a successful agreement on limiting offensive nuclear arms might be concluded. Further on Nixon remarks in his memoirs: The whole of this joining together of various forces against detente would have no doubt occurred in any political situation in the United States.

You see, this man with much experience in American politics could already 7 years ago see how the forces opposing detente and the peaceful coexistence of states with different social systems were trying to organize themselves. This coalition of political forces favoring a bellicose and aggressive policy of imperialism plays, it would appear, a determining role in the present turnabout in American policy.

But on the other hand, there are also other political forces in America, forces which represent the interests of peaceful development of international relations, which are aware of the real nature of the present international situation and are not at all interested in confrontation of this kind. It was on their behalf that another election candidate of the Democratic Party, Edward Kennedy, and the governor of California, Brown, have spoken in a number of public speeches.

We see that very highly critical remarks are being expressed already in the American trade union movement, aimed at the policy which the White House is pursuing today. Such a statement was made recently by Winpisinger, president of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, who stated that if the present policy was continued you could say goodbye to thousands of jobs. He calculated that his trade union alone would lose 30,000 jobs if a policy of peaceful coexistence was pursued. What I mean by this, incidentally, is that a certain sobering-up is setting in, that military passion which was being persistently thrust upon the American people is abating and people are beginning to ponder the more profound consequences of the present situation.

[Andrianov] This is borne out in particular by publications in the American press. Among the publications rapping the political adventurism of Carter, I want to note an article printed in the latest edition of NEWSWEEK magazine entitled Lessons of Korea and Vietnam. This is what the author says, in particular: Over a period of several years, Robert Lasch notes, we have been telling ourselves that we have learned the lesson of Vietnam. Carter is now suggesting that this lesson be buried in oblivion. He wants to do again in southwest Asia the same thing that so clearly resulted in a fiasco in Southeast Asia. Speaking of the background history to events in Afghanistan, the American writer recalls in his article that before these events the United States demanded that West Europe agree to a colossal escalation of its nuclear missile arsenal aimed at the Soviet Union. This was the first thing. Second, the United States made the first steps in the direction of military cooperation with China. Third, the American Senate for all intents and purposes rejected the SALT II treaty. Fourth, an uprising has taken place in Iran which has put an end to the shah's regime. Finally, fifth, Washington has commenced preparations for military interference in Iran and has begun looking for new bases in the Indian Ocean.

Taking these circumstances into account, Robert Lasch says, one must hardly be surprised that the Soviet Government has possibly decided to guarantee the security of its borders. Summing up the Afghan subject in his own original fashion, the American writer stresses: It is not at all compulsory for us, Americans that is, to react to what has happened in an excessively stormy fashion, succumbing into hysteria, resorting to some sort of idiotic boycott of the Olympic games, introducing a trade embargo which punishes the United States more than it punishes the Russians.

[Nekrasov] Yes, the situation in the United States is beginning to change in comparison to the situation which the administration was creating 1 month ago and with the situation which the White House would like in order to conduct the approaching U.S. presidential elections under the flag of foreign policy matters connected in essence with the policy of cold war. [as heard]

[Andrianov] The events of the past week show what harsh tests to which the policy of detente is now being subjected. But the foreign policy course of our country remains unchanging. Just as before, this course combines consistent love for peace with a resolute rebuff to aggression and a resolute struggle against the hegemonist aspirations of the imperialist powers and Beijing. Such a firm and principled stance by the Soviet state and its balanced reaction to the feverish and rash statements and actions of the West look very weighty and authoritative, all the more so against the background of the political adventurism of the Washington administration. Our country is a great power and it is behaving as befits one, taking this important circumstance into account and being conscious of the high responsibility it has for every step it takes. The Soviet Union is guided in its policy not by narrowly-understood short-term advantages or emotional outbursts, but by the higher interests of its people and state which coincide objectively with the vital interests of the peoples of the world and with the interests of the peaceful and progressive development of human civilization.

Our time is over, esteemed comrade radio listeners. We thank you for your attention. Goodbye. All the best to you.

III. 19 Feb 80

CC 7

USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
WORLD & REGIONAL ISSUES

WALDHEIM FORMS COMMISSION TO STUDY CHARGES AGAINST SHAH

LD181436 Moscow TASS in English 1427 GMT 18 Feb 80 LD

[Text] New York, February 18, TASS--A spokesman of the United Nations secretary general has announced that Kurt Waldheim had completed the formation of an international commission of jurists to study Iran's claims to the former shah. The commission includes representatives of Algeria, Venezuela, Syria, France and Sri Lanka. The purpose of the commission, which is expected to leave for Tehran, is to study on the spot the complaints of the Iranian side about crimes perpetrated by the regime of the former shah. After that the commission will present a report to the secretary general who will then submit it for consideration by the Security Council.

Touching on the forthcoming work of the commission, that was set up with Iran's consent, the President of Iran Bani-Sadr said in an interview to NEWSWEEK magazine the former shah's policy cannot be analyzed out of context of the American policy in respect of Iran. It is the commission's task to study aspects of the shah regime's cooperation with the United States.

Further Report

LD182312 Moscow TASS in English 1936 GMT 18 Feb 80 LD

[Text] New York, February 18, TASS--It was officially announced at the U.N. headquarters today that Iran and the United States have agreed on the composition of the international commission of inquiry into the crimes of the shah regime set up by U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim. According to preliminary information, the commission will be composed of representatives of Algeria, Venezuela, Syria, France and Sri Lanka.

The creation of the commission was put forward by the Iranian authorities as one of the preconditions for the release of American diplomats in Tehran. A note of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, sent some days ago to the U.N. secretary general, said that the issue of hostages results from the angry protest by the Iranian people against the systematic violations by the U.S. Government of international law and the trampling by the government of our national rights and aspirations during a quarter of a century, since the coup, organized by the CIA in August 1953.

As it is stressed at the United Nations, the inquiry into the shah's crimes can hardly be separated from the inquiry into the complicity in the crimes of the United States.

The international commission will shortly meet in Geneva to go to Tehran.

Waldheim Meeting With Vance

LD190926 Moscow TASS in English 0813 GMT 19 Feb 80 LD

[Text] New York, February 19, TASS--U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim has had a meeting in New York with U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. Discussed during the talk were details of work of the international commission formed by Kurt Waldheim to investigate into the crimes of the shah regime. Such an investigation is the Iranian authorities' preliminary condition for the release of the American diplomats detained by the revolutionary students in Tehran. In Washington, they fear, and not without ground, that the investigation will inevitably turn into a trial not only of the shah but also of his accomplice--the United States.

III. 19 Feb 80

CC 8

USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
WORLD & REGIONAL ISSUES

The local political observers believe that the aim of Cyrus Vance's hasty trip to New York is to attain limitation of the powers of the international commission so that it should not touch upon the United States' disgraceful role in Iran, the United States' direct and gross interference into Iran's internal affairs during 25 years.

PRAVDA SCORES WESTERN STANCE AT UNIDO CONFERENCE

LD131128 Moscow TASS in English 0815 GMT 13 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 13, TASS--The work of the UNIDO [United Nations Industrial Development Organization] conference has reaffirmed once again that a successful solution to the problems faced by the developing countries is inextricably linked with the struggle against imperialism, for consolidation of national sovereignty, expansion of cooperation with the socialist states. Newspaper PRAVDA arrives at this conclusion while generalizing the results of the third general conference of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization which discussed in Delhi the ways to speed up industrialization of the developing countries, restructuring of the international economic relations on an equitable and democratic basis.

The countries of the socialist community, the PRAVDA points out, presented to the conference a constructive programme to speed up industrialization and to raise the well-being of the developing countries. In a joint statement, they spoke out in favour of a comprehensive solution to these problems, including reconstruction and ensuring high rates of development of all the economic sectors, overcoming the food shortage, increasing employment and raising the living standards of the broad masses of the working people, elimination of exploitation of countries by foreign capital.

They also reiterated their readiness to broaden the economic cooperation with the developing states, to share with them experience accumulated in the field of industrialization, to accommodate their requirements in their respective national economy plans. A broad community of interests between the socialist and the developing countries also manifested itself in that on many agenda items, including the document entitled "The Delhi Declaration and Plan of Action" submitted to the conference for approval, they voted together.

At the same time, the PRAVDA stresses, the discussions in the Indian capital have clearly demonstrated the existence of profound contradictions between the developing countries and the capitalist West in the approach to these crucial problems. The Western powers, a FRANCE PRESSE correspondent reported from Delhi, entered objections to almost 60 out of 116 articles of the declaration prepared by the developing countries. While in the first days of the conference's deliberations, newspaper INDIAN EXPRESS noted in an editorial comment, the developed capitalist countries tried to mask their disagreement with the approach of the developing countries by objecting against some of the individual paragraphs of the declaration, at the final stage of the conference they dropped the camouflage and opposed the very idea of restructuring the international economic order.

AFGHAN REBEL NASIRI HOLDS WASHINGTON PRESS CONFERENCE

LD191101 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Feb 80 p 5 LD

[Text] The United States and its "allies" give broad assistance to gangs of mercenaries invading the territory of Afghanistan and waging a struggle against the lawful government of that country.

Writing in Washington POST today, its military commentator M. Getler points out that covert U.S. weapons supply, including firearms and antitank weapons, consists of weapons of foreign make which helps disguise the source of supply.

"Though it is not known precisely how the supply is being carried out," the commentator writes, "the operator presumably is the Central Intelligence Agency. Key committees of Congress have been kept informed of the administration actions by the State Department and CIA." The weapons "presumably" being slipped across Pakistan's border with Afghanistan are "a significant step beyond the aid" the United States was providing to these forces earlier.

The ringleader of one of the counter-revolutionary Afghan groupings Nasiri visited the capital of the USA and was given an ostentatiously warm welcome. He was received by Presidential Adviser P. Maddox.

Washington has announced the setting up of a so-called "Afghan Refugee Aid Committee"--a group which is clearly inspired by U.S. special services and whose purpose is to help the enemies of the Afghan people.

Commentators draw attention, in this connection, to the unseemly role of Pakistan. The normalization and maintenance of good-neighborly relations with Pakistan is advocated by the leadership of the new Afghanistan, which has repeatedly supported the idea of the border between these two countries becoming a border of peace, friendship and cooperation.

Notwithstanding this the Pakistani Government, as is known, is allowing its territory to be used for the invasion of Afghanistan by mercenaries and for struggle against its state system. In spoiling its relations simultaneously with several states the Pakistani leadership is not displaying a readiness to follow a course of peace and relaxation of international tension.

COMMENTATOR: CIA SUPPLYING ARMS TO AFGHAN REBELS

LD161040 Moscow TASS in English 1032 GMT 16 Feb 80 LD

["Conspiracy Against Afghanistan"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, February 16, TASS--TASS commentator Nikolay Baratonov writes:

The United States actively assisted by China is hatching a plot against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, is stepping up activity directed at armed interference in the internal affairs of that sovereign state.

The USA is secretly supplying arms to gangs of mercenaries invading Afghanistan's territory and fighting against that country's legitimate government. The supplies of hardware and arms, including fire arms and antitank weapons, are organized by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, which acting jointly with the State Department permanently informs about these actions the main committees of the U.S. Congress.

The establishment of the so-called Committee for Aid to the Afghan Refugees has been announced in Washington. This move was clearly inspired by the U.S. special services for giving assistance to the Afghan people.

Moreover, representatives of the Washington administration are establishing direct contacts with the chiefs of the counter-revolutionary gangs staging acts of aggression against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. One of them, a certain Nasiri, has now arrived in the USA for a consignment of arms worth up to 40 million dollars and for recruiting American mercenaries.

Earlier, Nasiri visited Egypt, where he secured "full support" of the As-Sadat regime. This "support" finds its specific expression in the training at Egyptian special camps of terrorists and cut-throats, who are to be sent into the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. This was confirmed by Egyptian Defence Minister Kamal ad-Din Hasan 'Ali at a press conference in Cairo on Wednesday.

The weapons and mercenaries are supplied to the Afghan counter-revolutionaries via the territory of Pakistan, which is assigned the role of the main springboard for subversive activity against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. It is also an open secret that the 400 million dollars granted to Islamabad by the Carter administration in urgent military economic aid is also earmarked in a considerable measure for the support of the Afghan counter-revolution.

Pakistan is being pushed onto a dangerous path running counter to the country's national interests also by the Beijing leaders trying to use it for the implementation of their hegemonistic plans vis-a-vis Afghanistan, as Afghan lands are on the list of the so called "lost Chinese territories". China took up arms against the Afghan revolution both figuratively and in the direct sense of the word. Right after the establishment of the people's power in Afghanistan China started subversive activity against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, which is continuing to this day. It is being waged by such methods as arms supplies, training of terrorists and armed provocations.

This way the "parallel strategic interests" of Chinese hegemonism and U.S. imperialism, about which they are now tirelessly talking in Beijing and Washington, are manifest. It is actually a collusion spearheaded against Afghanistan and the other Asian countries, a collusion facilitated by the stance of Pakistan, whose leaders do not display readiness to normalise relations with the neighbour countries.

DENIAL OF AID TO AFGHAN GROUPS DISMISSED

LD161358 Moscow TASS in English 1345 GMT 16 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Washington, February 16, TASS--Spokesman for the U.S. State Department H. Carter was trying to deny at a press conference held here that the United States is giving assistance to gangs of mercenaries in Afghanistan. He also categorically refused to answer the question about the participation of the Central Intelligence Agency in the operations for the supply of arms to these bandit groups by saying that the State Department "does not comment" on the activity of the U.S. intelligence services.

But in spite of the refutations by official representatives of the Washington administrations, it remains a fact that the United States is continuing arms supplies to mercenaries. Thus crudely interfering in sovereign Afghanistan's internal affairs. Here is what the newspaper New York TIMES had to say today in this connection.

Arms supplies to the mercenaries, the newspaper points out, started already in mid-January. A decision to this effect was taken by the Special Coordination Committee of the National Security Council headed by Zbigniew Brzezinski, and was then personally approved by J. Carter. The CIA was charged with carrying out the operation. Arms are supplied to Afghanistan via Pakistan, where the bulk of the mercenary force entrenched itself in the so-called "refugee camps." In so doing, the CIA specially uses non-American made weapons so as to create a semblance of full noninvolvement of the USA in developments in Afghanistan. The newspaper does not say from what country the arms are supplied. But the most likely "assistants" of the U.S. espionage department are believed to be Egypt and China.

The New York TIMES stresses that this is the first CIA action of this kind and scale since the aid given by this agency to the reactionary groupings in Angola in the mid-seventies.

As is seen from facts, both the White House and the State Department are well informed about the CIA's subversive operations in Afghanistan. The latter has in its turn, as the newspaper Washington POST said, informed about it members of all the main committees of the U.S. Congress, after which it is even more obvious that all statements by the Washington officials expressing "concern" and "protest" in connection with the aid given by the USSR to Afghanistan's legitimate government are designed to serve as a smokescreen to cover the crude U.S. interference in Afghanistan's home affairs.

REMARKS BY CARTER, BANI-SADR ON U.S. HOSTAGES IN TEHRAN

LD172135 Moscow TASS in English 1752 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Washington, February 17, TASS--U.S. President Carter again refused to consider questions concerning Washington's interference in Iran's internal affairs, to denounce this interference and to pledge firmly to prevent any such actions in the future. As is known, the Iranian Government insists on these demands as the main conditions for a settlement of the crisis in Iranian-American relations.

At a meeting with American newspaper editors the President said that he considered it improper to single out any concrete aspect of past history, whether it was a matter of several decades or several days. He said he did not consider it wise to analyse the last 35 years of Iranian history.

Nevertheless, concrete aspects in the history of American interference in Iranian internal affairs, which the President considers unwise to analyse, are widely known to the whole world, especially to the Iranian people who, as the events show, do not intend to forget the lessons of history.

Tehran, February 17, TASS--Speaking on the Tehran television the president of Iran A. Bani-Sadr reiterated that if the Iranian-American conflict over the U.S. hostages is to be settled the United States must accept the basic demands of Iran. I was told, A. Bani-Sadr said, that it would be humiliating for the United States itself to denounce its unseemly role in Iran (in the opinion of news agencies, Bani-Sadr had in view President Carter's statement at his meeting with American newspapers editors to the effect that he did not consider it wise to analyse Iranian history of the last 35 years--ed.) How can I in this case order the students to release the hostages? If I tell them that this is being done only at the request of the United States they will certainly refuse to do so. If we are to have new relations with the United States in the future we must, first of all, assure the Iranian people that what happened will never recur again.

MATVEYEV ASSAILS U.S. PLANS FOR BROADER MIDEAST PRESENCE

LD151133 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Feb 80 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[V. Matveyev commentary under the rubric "On International Themes": "The Yoke of the Gendarme"]

[Text] While in Pakistan recently, Z. Brzezinski, the U.S. President's special assistant for national security affairs, stated at meetings with leading statesmen of that country that the United States has now exorcized the consequences of the Vietnam war and is "ready once more to assume international obligations." Translated into practical terms this means that official Washington is now more and more overtly setting a course toward preparing new armed interventions of the type resorted to by the United States in the sixties and early seventies against the peoples of Indochina.

On 4 February, the New York TIMES revealed a Pentagon-originated report, previously kept secret, on various "options" for the use of U.S. military force in the Persian Gulf region. It is highly typical that this document was drawn up many months before the White House raised the provocative hullabaloo about the "threat" which the events in Afghanistan allegedly create for the United States and its allies. The report's authors, of course, also bandy about inflated stories about the "Soviet threat," although at the same time they do not particularly try to hide the aggressive, militarist reality of the measures proposed by them for expanding the "military presence" in this region and for preparing for the use of direct military force there. The cat is out of the bag!

How far the unnamed Pentagon "experts" are ready to go in their adventurist plans is evidenced by the fact that their report does not exclude the possible use in this bag of nuclear weapons too. (Tactical weapons, these overzealous gentlemen specify--V.M.)

In reporting the inflammatory recommendations outlined in the Pentagon, the New York TIMES does not specify how the U.S. Government itself reacted to them. But there is no need to guess. These days both the White House chief and other highly placed Washington officials are constantly talking in public about their intention to foist notorious "American tutelage" on the countries of the Near and Middle East with the help of bombers, landing forces, aircraft carriers and the like. In a recently published interview with U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT U.S. Defense Secretary H. Brown declares: "We will establish an increasingly extensive American presence in this region." The journalist interviewing the defense secretary noted that the Persian Gulf countries feel no enthusiasm for an American "presence". H. Brown was forced to agree with this, but it still did not prevent him from reasserting with martinet-like directness the Pentagon's intention to install itself in this region!

It must be supposed that the peoples and governments of the Near and Middle East states whose inalienable sovereign rights Washington would like to trample very uncereemoniously underfoot, will draw the appropriate conclusions for themselves from these intentions. It is noteworthy that even figures close to the United States in a country such as Saudi Arabia are expressing disagreement with the hullabaloo raised in the United States about the "Soviet threat". This is evidenced by an interview given to the London newspaper THE SUNDAY TIMES, by the crown prince of Saudi Arabia, Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud.

Washington is committing a serious error of judgment in supposing that the United States' hands are untied for "new Vietnams"!

III. 19 Feb 80

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USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
UNITED STATES & CANADA

KORNILOV: U.S. PLANS TO USE NORWAY AS 'MILITARY ARSENAL'

LD171752 Moscow TASS in English 1717 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, 17 February, TASS--TASS commentator Yuri Kornilov writes:

Major NATO exercises, code-named Anorak Express, are to begin shortly in Norway, not far from the Norwegian-Soviet frontier. The exercises, says a UPI report referring to the Pentagon's official sources, will involve an American airborne formation equipped with helicopters and landing facilities.

The very fact of a show of NATO's, especially the Pentagon's "military muscle" near the Soviet shores can only be qualified as a provocation designed to increase tension in the north of Europe. But this is not all. It was learned that NATO leading quarters are finishing work on an agreement under which a special U.S. Marine brigade, numbering up to 10,000 men, will be constantly "aiming" at Norway. It was decided to establish big depots of heavy military equipment in Norwegian territory for this brigade which Pentagon intends to rush, in a matter of days, to the north of Europe "in the event of a crisis situation." Although the press does not specify what kind of "equipment" is to be kept at these depots, a number of observers say that the equipment will include systems of arms which may carry nuclear warheads or may be used for delivering them.

In other words, Washington which has been very active in the matter of building up tension in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf area, is now "transferring" its policy from south to north. All indications are that Norway, whose government is known to have backed the U.S. militaristic plans for deployment of medium-range American nuclear missiles in Western Europe, came out in support of President Carter's provocative calls for "boycotting" the Moscow Olympics. Norway is assigned the role of a base for equipping the gendarme "quick reaction corps," whose sphere of operation, as it is becoming clear now, is to be also extended to Europe.

So Washington is openly planning to use Norway as its "military arsenal" in order to create a new seat of action in the north of Europe in direct proximity to the Soviet frontiers.

The question naturally arises: How is one to reconcile these openly militaristic actions--carried out with the blessing of Norwegian Government circles--with the official policy of Norway which made pronouncements more than once against establishment of any foreign military bases in its territory in peacetime? How is all this to be reconciled with Oslo's repeated statements that Norway is allegedly interested in preserving stability and in keeping tension in Nordic Europe as low as possible?

It is quite obvious that the official statements of Norwegian Government circles are at variance with their practical actions which are aimed at supporting and encouraging the Pentagon's extremely dangerous militaristic plans. This cannot but cause serious and quite justifiable concern among the public in Norway and the rest of Europe.

DESIRE TO PRESERVE GAINS IN U.S.-USSR RELATIONS NOTED

LD060220 Moscow World Service in English 2300 GMT 15 Feb 80 LD

[Nikolay Shishlin commentary]

[Text] The increased tension on the world scene necessitates a restrained and balanced approach to international relations.

It would be in the interests of peace not to complicate disputes but to continue a constructive dialog to solve them. Unfortunately, the United States has now chosen a different road. Far from wishing to continue the dialog with the Soviet Union, it is seeking to wreck what has been achieved in bilateral cooperation. Take, for instance, trade. Since 1974, when Washington adopted the discriminatory trade act, Soviet-American economic relations have been unable to assume a proper shape. Yet by last year, trade showed a tendency to grow. Today the United States administration has reversed the process. Something similar is happening in science and culture. Over the seventies, ties between Soviet and American scientists became rather strong. There were interesting joint projects. Reciprocal concert tours became a feature of cultural life in both countries.

Today, Washington is curtailing these contacts. Exhibitions and concert tours announced earlier have now been canceled. American scientists have been recommended to scale down contacts with their Soviet counterparts. Soviet-American cooperation in arms limitation and in establishing control over armaments has always been important. A major result of the contacts in that field was the signing of the SALT II treaty. But the Carter administration has now frozen the treaty. The move is said to be temporary but it cannot but make one wonder if the administration is prepared to seek mutually acceptable decisions to curb the arms race.

Finally, Washington is campaigning for a boycott of the summer Olympic games in Moscow. Trampling on the principles and ideals of the Olympic movement, President Carter is pressing to get the Olympics canceled in a framework of sanctions against the Soviet Union. All this is being done at a time when restraint is particularly important in politics, restraint coupled with readiness to use any chance to improve Soviet-American relations. It goes without saying that American sanctions against the Soviet Union will not make it abandon the basic principles of its foreign policy. The Soviet Union had to live through many a trial in its history and it withstood every one of them. The Soviet people will always have a worthy answer for hostile actions by the United States, be it economic or any other threats.

What is important is that Soviet actions in the present complicated international situation are the exact opposite of American actions. The Soviet Union wants not only to preserve the fruits of detente but to multiply them. It is actively working for progress at the Vienna talks on a reduction of armed forces and armaments in Central Europe and is supporting measures to promote East-West trust. If the American administration is seeking a new spiral in the arms race, the Soviet Union is persistently advocating further efforts to curb and halt the arms race. The Soviet stand has been spelt out by President Brezhnev, when he said that the Soviet Union wants to keep intact everything good that was achieved on the world scene in the seventies. What is more he thinks it's necessary to move forward. This applies to curbing the arms race, eliminating conflict-prone situations in Southeast Asia and the Middle and Near East and turning the Indian Ocean into a peace zone, as is proposed by the coastal countries.

The Soviet Union accepts and welcomes any road, if it leads to a lasting peace. It is to be hoped that this reasonable stand, which is supported by influential political circles in Europe and on other continents, will, in the final account, be assessed correctly by American public opinion too. There is no cogent alternative to the policy of lessening tension and peaceful coexistence.

REPORTS ON 'HIGH-LEVEL PURGE' IN PRC CITED

LD151406 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 15 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Foreign agencies report a top-level purge in the Chinese cadre hierarchy. The following members of the Chinese Communist Party Politburo have been relieved of active duties: Wang Dongxing, vice chairman of the Central Committee; and Chen Xilian, Ji Dengkui and Chen Yonggui, all vice premiers of the PRC State Council. In the army, the changes have affected at least 20 highly-placed military leaders. At least 15 first secretaries of provincial committees of the CPC and former leaders of revolutionary committees have been dismissed or transferred to other duties.

It is noticeable that most of the leaders purged are those who came to prominence during the Cultural Revolution. The foreign press stresses that the shake-up in the supreme organs of power in China are being actively utilized by Deng Xiaoping to strengthen the position of his supporters, the so-called pragmatic wing.

Western journalists see in this a further sign of the consolidation of China's orientation toward the West. At the same time, the theory is advanced that the current reshuffle will lead to a curb on the powers of Hua Guofeng, who, it is believed, will give up the post of premier of the state, while retaining his position as chairman of the CPC Central Committee.

TASS ANALYST TERMS PRC'S FOREIGN POLICY AS AGGRESSIVE

LD170056 Moscow TASS in English 1650 GMT 16 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 16, TASS--TASS news analyst Mikhail Yakovlev writes:

China's Deputy Foreign Minister Zhang Canming gave an interview to the Swedish newspaper AFTONBLADET, which is nothing but another exercise in slander against the Soviet Union. The lamponest from the Chinese diplomatic department alleged that the Soviet Union's "next step" in the international arena will be an "attack" on Iran and Pakistan. If one wants to talk about those who in fact claim other lands and commit aggression against neighbouring countries, one should talk about China. During its thirty-year history the PRC laid claims to the territory of almost all its neighbours in Asia. Is it not Beijing and its senior partner--American imperialism--which are waging an undeclared war against the Afghan people that embarked on the road of building a new life on democratic principles? Accounts of armed mercenaries taken prisoner in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, reports of the foreign press irrefutably prove that the Chinese authorities are training subversion gangs hostile to the Afghan people on the bases in Xinjiang, arming them with their weapons and smuggling them into the Afghan territory to fight against the legitimate government.

The Chinese aggression against Socialist Vietnam and constant threats of the Chinese officials to "teach a new lesson" to the Vietnamese people show that the expansionist plans are being furthered. The expansionist nature of the Chinese foreign policy is also evidenced from the fact that China continues to occupy part of the Indian territory it seized in 1962. China continues to follow a similar line with regard to India using a territorial dispute between India and Pakistan. The Indian newspaper NATIONAL HERALD wrote the other day that the Chinese-built Karakorum Highway linking China and Pakistan and crossing the occupied part of Kashmir poses a threat to India.

In 1956 China made an attempt to tear away by force part of the Burmese territory. It is no secret that just as Mao Zedong, the present Chinese leadership is nurturing designs to devour the Mongolian People's Republic, is claiming vast tracts of the Soviet land. It repeatedly laid its claims to many insular territories and shelf sections from the Korea Strait to the countries of South East Asia. This "register" of Beijing could be continued. Such are the facts which form the great-power, aggressive foreign policy of the present Chinese rulers who inherited it from the old Chinese emperors who dreamt of a great Chinese empire. The exercises in slander against the Soviet Union, in which the Chinese leaders are now engaged, are designed to divert attention from the real expansionist plans of the Chinese militarism.

III. 19 Feb 80

USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
NORTHEAST ASIA

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ARKHIPOV, DPRK VICE PREMIER HOLD TALKS

SK160527 Moscow in Korean to Korea 0930 GMT 14 Feb 80 SK

[Text] IZVESTIYA has reported that Comrade Arkhipov, deputy chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Council of Ministers, on 13 February received and held talks with Comrade Kong Chin-tae, vice premier of the DPRK administration council. Participating in these talks was Comrade Kim Chae-pong, DPRK ambassador to the Soviet Union.

JAPANESE SOCIALIST PARTY CONGRESS OPENS

LD151059 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Feb 80 p 5 LD

[Correspondent Yu. Vdovin dispatch: "Congress of Japanese Socialists"]

[Text] Tokyo, 8 February--The 44th Japanese Socialist Party [JSP] Congress opened here today. About 480 delegates representing 50,000 party members are participating in its work.

The elections which took place last year showed a certain decline in the JSP's influence among the voters. First the socialists lost several dozen seats in local organs of power, then they slipped back in the lower house of parliament, where they lost 10 seats. The reasons for these failures, as the press notes, lie in the weakening of the party's ties with the masses. In this connection at the end of last year the party proclaimed a policy of winning greater support among the masses. The JSP called for every effort to be made for victory at this summer's elections to the upper house of parliament in order to put an end to the dominance of the liberal Democrats in the country's highest legislative organ and to achieve the creation of a "coalition government of progressive forces." However the JSP leadership does not see the solution of this task in strengthening cooperation with the Communist Party but in establishing ties with the Komeito Party, which is forming an alliance with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

MONGOLIA, USSR SIGN BROADCASTING COOPERATION PROTOCOL

LD181442 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1330 GMT 18 Feb 80 LD

[Text] The signing of a working protocol on cooperation in the field of television and radio broadcasting between the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting and the State Committee of the Council of Ministers of the Mongolian People's Republic [MPR] for Information, Radio Broadcasting and Television for 1980-81 took place in Moscow today. Particular attention is paid to the publicizing of the 110th anniversary of the birth of Vladimir Ilich Lenin, the 35th anniversary of the victory of the Soviet people in the Great Patriotic War and the 60th anniversary of the People's Revolution in Mongolia.

The protocol was signed by Lapin, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting, and Purebjab, chairman of the State Committee of the Council of Ministers of the MPR for Information, Radio Broadcasting and Television.

FURTHER REPORTAGE, COMMENTARY ON GROMYKO'S VISIT TO INDIA

Report on Visit

LD151627 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Feb 80 p 5 LD

[TASS report: "Official Visit"]

[Text] Delhi, 12 February--A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, arrived in Delhi today on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the Republic of India's Government.

He was met at Palam Airport by P.V. Narasimha Rao, Indian minister of external affairs and other officials.

The welcoming party included Yu. M. Vorontsov, USSR ambassador to India and the heads of the socialist countries' diplomatic missions.

At the airport A.A. Gromyko stated that questions of bilateral relations, and also international problems of interest to the Soviet Union and India would be discussed during the upcoming talks with the Indian leaders. Our relations are an important factor in insuring peace and stability not only in South Asia, but also in the broader international sphere, a factor opposing hegemonist and imperialist aspirations.

In his reply P.V. Narasimha Rao, Indian minister of external affairs, declared that he totally shares A.A. Gromyko's confidence that the upcoming Soviet-Indian talks will be fruitful.

A.A. Gromyko met with President N.S. Reddy of the Republic of India. A friendly conversation took place during which questions of the relations between the two countries and also certain international problems were discussed.

That same day a meeting took place between A.A. Gromyko and Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. A.A. Gromyko conveyed to the Indian prime minister a message from L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. During the conversation, which was held in a warm and friendly atmosphere and a spirit of mutual understanding, questions of Soviet-Indian bilateral relations were examined and the mutual determination was expressed to further strengthen and expand them on the firm basis of the Soviet-Indian peace, friendship and cooperation treaty. Topical questions of the present international situation were also discussed. The following took part in the conversation on the Soviet side--N.P. Firyubin, USSR deputy foreign minister and Yu.M. Vorontsov, USSR ambassador to India; on the Indian side--P.V. Narasimha Rao, Indian minister of external affairs and I.K. Gujral, Indian ambassador to the USSR.

Talks were also held between A.A. Gromyko and P.V. Narasimha Rao. The ministers expressed satisfaction with the development of the traditionally friendly Soviet-Indian relations and the sides' intention to continue to follow the course of further strengthening equal and mutually advantageous cooperation. Certain international problems of mutual interest to the Soviet Union and India are considered.

In the evening P.V. Narasimha Rao gave a dinner in honor of A.A. Gromyko during which friendly toasts were exchanged.

The Indian minister of external affairs noted that since diplomatic relations were established between India and the USSR in April 1947, the cooperation between the two countries has developed at a rapid pace in the interests of both peoples and on the basis of trust and mutual understanding. We have strictly followed the task of working for the good of peace throughout the world.

Indian-Soviet cooperation in the economic, technical and scientific spheres is eloquent evidence of the way two countries, irrespective of the differences between their socio-economic systems, can strengthen their bilateral relations in the interests of mutual advantage on the basis of the principles of Pancha Sheela [Nehru's five principles] and peaceful coexistence. This fruitful cooperation, the minister noted, reflects the common desire of our two countries' peoples to create a better life on earth. Both our countries, which seek to raise their people's living standards, have always recognized that the greatest result in this direction can be achieved only under conditions of international peace. India has always stated, both during bilateral talks and at various international forums, that the world's peoples have no alternative to living in harmony and building their relations on the principles of peaceful coexistence.

This belief, P.V. Narasimha Rao noted, is dictated by our historical experience. India recalls with pride its long struggle against the forces of colonialism, racism and apartheid, which wove and continue to weave conspiracies with the aim of preventing the implementation of the aspirations of the broad people's masses. The Soviet Union also remembers its heroic struggle against fascism, a struggle in which the Soviet people had to make tremendous sacrifices.

We highly appreciate the fact that the Soviet Union initiated the detente process in Europe and has contributed to its further development. It is this process that has considerably lessened the tension that threatened peace on the European Continent. We regard the Soviet peace-loving initiatives as a positive first step toward world peace and we hope this process will spread to other regions of the globe.

Recent events in our region, the Indian minister stressed, are causing great concern in India. They threaten not only our region's stability but also peace throughout the world. We are convinced that interstate relations must be implemented on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence.

India, he said, pursues the policy of normalizing and strengthening relations with its neighbors. However, at the same time we state once again that any improvement of these relations with any neighboring country will not be at the expense of our friendship with other states which has stood the test of time. P.V. Narasimha Rao noted that the Indian Government reaffirms its readiness and desire for still broader participation in regional economic cooperation.

The emergency of seats of tension in various regions of the world, the minister continued, often means we forget the acute need to solve the urgent development problems that mankind is encountering. The overwhelming majority of the world population still lives in hunger and poverty and remains illiterate. Mankind cannot allow itself to spend its resources on a senseless arms race.

We, P.V. Narasimha Rao declared, are glad that A.A. Gromyko's visit has coincided with the celebrations of the silver jubilee of economic cooperation between the two countries. [paragraph continues]

In 10 days I.V. Arkhipov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and the Soviet cochairman of the Indian-Soviet Intergovernmental Commission for Economic and Scientific and Technical Cooperation, will arrive in Delhi to take part in the celebrations of the significant jubilee which will be widely marked throughout India. We are confident that these visits are evidence of the two countries' dedication to the noble cause of further developing cooperation for the good of our peoples and enable us to continue fruitful dialog on the important problems that face mankind today.

The talks we have started today, A.A. Gromyko said in his reply speech, are a continuation of the prevailing practice of Soviet-Indian political contacts. These contacts enable us to consider and successfully solve questions of bilateral relations and provide an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of one another's positions and to outline the directions of our cooperation in international affairs in the interests of peace. The level of development of contacts between states in the political sphere is always a reliable indicator of the general state of the relations between them. That is why we note with satisfaction--and I think you will agree with this--that political contacts certainly play an important political role in the whole complex of Soviet-Indian relations.

The current nature of Soviet-Indian cooperation is accurately expressed by the words of L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium: "Our friendship has been tempered in the flames of the Bhilai blast furnaces and has been given new expression by the joint efforts of the Soviet Union and India in the world arena, efforts directed toward the triumph of peace, justice and the peoples' freedom." Tremendous credit for this belongs to L.I. Brezhnev and Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

The present talks are being held at a period when the world situation has become appreciably more complex and the process of the relaxation of tension is undergoing serious trials. The responsibility for this lies entirely with imperialist forces, and primarily certain U.S. circles that are obsessed with the idea of military superiority and would like to change the correlation of forces in the world in their own favor and revive cold war times. In other words, they would like to speak the language of diktat so as to foist their will on other countries and peoples and get their hands on foreign oil and, in general, wealth belonging to other countries.

In order to camouflage their schemes the makers of this Washington policy, as has often happened before, are trying to push fantasies about a "Soviet threat." This method is old junk that stinks of mothballs, but this does not embarrass them. They have now chosen the Soviet action in support of Afghanistan's people who are defending their democratic gains in a struggle against aggression unleashed from outside--as the target for their attacks. Here the imperialists are trying to make out that this move of ours is the prime cause of the complications that have emerged in international affairs recently. That is an absurd, dishonest fairy tale. Imperialist forces clearly needed the aggression against Afghanistan that they organized in order to use it to strike another blow against the relaxation of tension in the world. They must have known that Afghanistan would strongly defend its independence and the USSR would respond to its request for assistance.

The action to assist Afghanistan, which is in complete accordance with the friendship, good-neighborliness and cooperation treaty between the USSR and the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and also with the UN Charter, is not directed against neighboring states, does not damage their interests and, of course, cannot pose a threat to security and stability in this region of Asia and the world as a whole. In his recent interview with a PRAVDA correspondent L.I. Brezhnev gave an exhaustive answer to the question when and under what conditions the limited Soviet troop contingents will be withdrawn from Afghanistan.

Washington needed the anti-Soviet and anti-Afghan camouflage of its policy in order to cover up the course it had long steered of fueling international tension, undermining detente and escalating the arms race. As long as 2 years ago the NATO countries agreed to sharply increase their military budgets. This was followed by the decision to deploy new American nuclear weapons in West Europe. Setting the tone for this course, the United States has made and is making unprecedented efforts to build up its military potential. The creation--which Washington is pressing ahead with--of the American "quick-reaction corps," intended for armed interference in the internal affairs of peoples in various regions of the world, has similar implications.

Or take U.S. actions such as its crude pressure on Iran--an American naval armada has been moved right up to that country's shores--the U.S. military preparations on Diego Garcia Island in the Indian Ocean or Washington's feverish quest for sites to deploy its new military bases.

The actions of this kind also include the intrigues aimed at turning Pakistan into a seat of tension and a springboard for the further development of aggression against Afghanistan. If Pakistan continues to travel this road it will not obtain any benefit but will undermine its position as an independent state. What would accord with its interests is the strengthening of its independence and the maintenance of good, friendly relations with all neighboring countries.

The actions of the forces that unleashed the aggression against Afghanistan and are continuing this aggression cannot be regarded other than as a direct threat to the security and independence of peoples in the Near and Middle East and South Asia. We understand these peoples' concern. It is perfectly justified, if you further consider the fact that the Beijing leadership, which pursues the course of great-power, hegemonist policies, is acting in the same direction.

The peoples know very well how to recognize those who are really dedicated to the interests of peace and cooperation and are struggling for this and those who merely pose as peacemakers.

As for the Soviet Union, its policy--the policy of the struggle for peace, international cooperation and the freedom and independence of the peoples--has been and remains consistent. It was bequeathed to us by Lenin. Our country will continue to follow this policy unswervingly, contributing actively to preserving and consolidating the cause of detente, ending the arms race and achieving disarmament, removing the seats of tension in various regions of the world and eliminating the remnants of colonialism and preserves of racism. As everywhere in the world, that is our policy regarding the Middle and Near Eastern states and the South Asian states. Soviet people know what deserved prestige is enjoyed in the world arena by the peace-loving policy of India--the great Asian power. We are firmly convinced that the opportunities exist for further developing the cooperation between our countries--whose positions are close or coincide to a large extent--with a view to solving urgent international problems and positively influencing the development of the world political situation. The reliable basis for our joint efforts in this direction is the 1971 Soviet-Indian treaty. This greatly helps Soviet-Indian relations and peace as a whole.

III. 19 Feb 80

D 5

USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
SOUTH ASIA

Allow me in conclusion to express the confidence that the present meetings and talks will help to further develop the fruitful cooperation and strengthen the friendship between our countries for the good of the Soviet and Indian people and in the interests of peace throughout the world.

The dinner, which was held in a warm and friendly atmosphere, was attended by ministers of the Indian Government, members of Parliament and other officials.

Sergeyev Commentary

LD161848 Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1400 GMT 16 Feb 80 LD

[Boris Sergeyev commentary]

[Text] The Soviet Union and India have reaffirmed the community of approach to the solution of urgent problems of peace and security in Asia. This is the conclusion the observers come to when analysing the recent Soviet-Indian talks in Delhi. The Soviet side has enough grounds to express satisfaction at their outcome. Reports coming from the Indian capital stress that the two countries' viewpoints coincide on the main things: that the independence and welfare of nations depends on lasting peace, peace based not on the notorious balance of strength nor on the show of military power. The Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko and the Indian leaders have agreed that in the current conditions the human race has the only alternative: to build relations on the principles of peaceful coexistence and on taking into account each other's interests.

Our two countries' viewpoints are similar as far as the ways of gaining this goal are concerned. The Soviet people appreciate the high (?assessment) given by India's Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao to the Soviet Union's efforts aimed at easing international tension. His appraisal is important not only from the point of view of a friend's attitude. His statement was the Indian Government's confirmation of its readiness to promote the positive growth of (?peace) in the world, primarily in Asia. India's attitude towards the latest events in the Middle East and South Asia is an expression of its desire for peace.

Unfortunately Pakistan's reaction to India's proposals aimed at further implementing the Simla agreements has not been favorable. If the proimperialist trends characteristic of Pakistan's foreign policy at the moment continues to develop, the country's independence will be seriously undermined because these trends promote Pakistan's turning into a springboard of hostile activity against its neighbors, Afghanistan, India and Iran. In the meantime the sincere striving for good-neighborliness based on India's century-old experience helps the country to come to independent decisions in the complicated international situation. Witness the fact that India has not let itself be influenced by the anti-Afghan noisy campaign raised in the West and in Beijing. It sent a special envoy, Mr Singh, to Kabul for getting acquainted with the true state of affairs there. A government statement that followed his return stressed that Afghanistan strives to resolve its problems with Pakistan by means of peaceful talks.

The Soviet Union believes that goodwill and the ability to see hopeful prospects behind the gloomy clouds, which often gather over the Asian Continent through no fault of the Asian people, are precisely the factor that links it with India in their striving for peace in Asia, this naturally opens up new opportunities for strengthening the cooperation between the Soviet Union and India in the interests of peace in Asia and the entire world.

Indian 'Satisfaction'

ID191024 Moscow TASS in English 1005 GMT 19 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Delhi, February 19, TASS--The Indian Government expresses satisfaction with the talks held recently in Delhi by USSR Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko and Indian leaders, Indian Minister of External Affairs P.V. Narasimha Rao said at a press conference in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. During the talks, the minister said, the sides discussed in detail the situation that formed in the region and its causes.

Narasimha Rao stressed that India is seriously concerned with the heightening of tension in the region and will continue its efforts aimed at detente. We have the view that preventing further escalation of tension and taking the necessary steps for the relaxation of tension are particularly important now. We regard the escalation of tension as a threat of implanting the spirit of the cold war in South Asia and this causes our great concern, the minister said.

IZVESTIYA CITES AFGHAN-INDIAN STATEMENT ON KABUL TALKS

ID151401 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Feb 80 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[TASS report: "Results of Afghan-Indian Talks"]

[Text] Kabul--A statement has been published on the Afghan-Indian talks which took place during the visit to Kabul by S.K. Singh, special representative of the Indian Government. He was received by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] and handed him a message from Indian Prime Minister I. Gandhi.

As the statement urges, during the talks the need was stressed for every effort to be made to relax the dangerous and tense situation in the region caused by the angry reaction of certain powers to events in Afghanistan, which are purely internal affairs.

The Afghan side confirmed that it will adhere strictly to a nonalignment policy and to the principles of the UN Charter and will make all-round efforts to maintain friendly relations with all peace-loving countries, particularly neighboring countries--the USSR, India, Pakistan, Iran and others, on the basis of mutual respect for independence and national sovereignty and noninterference in each other's internal affairs.

The Afghan Government, the document notes, has neither the desire nor the intention to threaten any of its neighbors or to provoke them. It believes that recent purely internal events in Afghanistan cannot and must not be a cause for alarm or concern on the part of Afghanistan's neighbors.

Serious concern was expressed regarding attempts by certain countries to turn Pakistan, whose people are joined by historical, cultural and religious ties to the Afghan people, into a base for armed aggression against Afghanistan and a bridgehead constituting a threat to Afghanistan's neighbor states.

The Afghan side, the statement notes, reasserted its desire to resolve all problems with Pakistan by means of peaceful and friendly talks, without the use of force, envisaging that in accordance with its own people's wishes Pakistan will adopt a similar position with regard to the DRA.

The Afghan side again confirmed that the limited contingent of Soviet troops sent into Afghanistan at the request of the DRA Government in accordance with the provisions of the Afghan-Soviet treaty on friendship, good neighborliness and cooperation and the provisions of the UN Charter will be withdrawn from Afghan territory as soon as there are firm guarantees of the elimination of the factors which gave rise to the need for the request, namely: when the armed aggression against Afghanistan from outside, which is still going on, has stopped.

The Afghan side conveyed to the Indian Government the DRA's sincere thanks for the understanding it displayed immediately after recent events in Afghanistan, which testifies to the traditional ties of friendship and cooperation between the Afghan and Indian peoples.

AFGHANISTAN'S KARMAL CHAIRS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SESSION

LD171746 Moscow TASS in English 1719 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kabul, February 17, TASS--The Council of Ministers of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan held a meeting here under the chairmanship of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the DRA.

The Council of Ministers, BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY reports, approved agreements and contracts signed earlier between the DRA and socialist countries, including an agreement on technical and economic cooperation with the GDR and a number of documents on Soviet assistance to the DRA in various fields.

Karmal Meets Palestinian Delegation

LD171540 Moscow TASS in English 1515 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kabul, February 17, TASS--Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the DRA, received a delegation of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, now staying in Afghanistan.

During their talk Babrak Karmal exposed the activities of the United States, the Chinese hegemonists and Arab reaction which are plotting against the peoples of the region. He stressed that Afghanistan's friendship with the Soviet Union is the guarantee of peace, security and stability in this region of the world. The Afghan leader strongly condemned the attempts of American imperialism to pose as a "champion" of Moslems in Afghanistan. He reaffirmed the DRA's solidarity with the struggle of the Arab peoples against imperialism, colonialism and Zionism. Members of the front's delegation said during the meeting that they would make every effort to ensure that the Arab peoples know the truth about the latest events in Afghanistan.

INTERVIEW WITH AFGHANISTAN'S KESHTMAND CITED

LD162030 Moscow TASS in English 1942 GMT 16 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Beirut, February 16, TASS--Close fraternal relations have long been existing between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union and within the framework of these relations the USSR invariably renders disinterested aid to the Afghan people. This has been stated in an interview to AL-HADAF by Vice-President of the Revolutionary Council of Afghanistan, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand. The Soviet Union's aid to Afghanistan, he stressed, was rendered in line with the repeated requests made by the Revolutionary Council and the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, that the Soviet Union should help put an end to foreign interference into internal affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The Afghan people as a whole highly appreciates the Soviet support and expresses gratitude for it to the Soviet people, said the vice-president of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

World imperialism and the Beijing leadership, which now unleashed a broad-anti-Afghan and anti-Soviet campaign, said S.A. Keshtmand, seek to distort the essence of the Soviet aid to Afghanistan and the transformations that have taken place in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, in order to prevent the Afghan people from following the lines of progress and independence. But their efforts are in vain, the wheel of history cannot be turned back.

Characterising Afghanistan's attitude to the Palestinian problem, S.A. Keshtmand emphasised that the April revolution from the very beginning had been coming out in support of the just national rights of the Arab people of Palestine.

The confirmation of this is the recent statement by General Secretary of the Central Committee of the National Democratic Party of Afghanistan, President of the Revolutionary Council and the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan Babrak Karmal to the effect that Afghanistan's stand is that of firm support for the Palestinian people's struggle for their legitimate rights. We hold, said S.A. Keshtmand, that the Afghan and Palestinian revolutions have one common enemy--international imperialism, world Zionism and reaction.

AFGHAN MINISTER STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURAL TASKS

LD151411 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Feb 80 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[Report from V. Lapskiy roundup "The Day Worldwide": "Clear Guidelines"]

[Text] The People's Democratic Party and Government of Afghanistan have set the task of fully providing the country with agricultural products, Fazl Rahim Mohammad, Afghan minister of agriculture and land reform, stated. All the preconditions for this exist, he said in a talk with a TASS correspondent, but years of persistent work are needed.

This year, the minister said, more than 1 million hectares will be sown with grain and allocated to industrial crops. We are trying to interest the peasants in growing such important crops for the country as cotton and sugar beet.

USSR SUPPLIES AFGHANS WITH MATERIALS FOR SPRING SOWING

LD151534 Moscow World Service in English 0400 GMT 15 Feb 80 LD

[Text] The Soviet Union is supplying Afghanistan with tractors. A large consignment is already on its way via the River Amu-Darya in Central Asia. The Soviet Union has already sent 10,000 tons of wheat grain, mineral fertilizers and farm technology. Afghanistan needs all this for the spring sowing season.

AFGHAN TRIBAL LEADER WELCOMES SOVIET ASSISTANCE

LD152114 Moscow TASS in English 1815 GMT 15 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kabul, February 15, TASS--National Leader of Afghanistan's Pashtun tribes Abdol Gafar Khan sharply criticizes the allegations published in the Pakistani newspaper NAWA-I-WAQT. The newspaper grossly distorted his statement to foreign newsmen about the present situation in Afghanistan and the nature of Soviet-Afghan relations. Abdol Gafar Khan said that the newspaper's report is absolutely false and stressed that NAWA-I-WAQT tried many times to distort the facts and to present the situation in the country in a way suiting the enemies of the Afghan revolution.

In an interview to a correspondent of the BAKHTAR AGENCY, Abdol Gafar Khan welcomed the Soviet Union's assistance to the Afghan people. World imperialism and its flunkies are striving to plunge Afghanistan into the dark and to use Islam in self-seeking aims, he said. Abdol Gafar Khan made a call to the Pashtun tribes to work out peacefully and in a calm atmosphere, together with other national forces, the measures for the struggle against the enemies of the Afghan revolution.

AFGHAN YOUTH GROUP APPRECIATES 'UNSELFISH' SOVIET AID

LD171256 Moscow TASS in English 1217 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kabul, February 17, TASS--A mass meeting, organized by the Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan, took place at the Kabul Polytechnical Institute. It was attended by hundreds of students, young workers and intellectuals. B. Giyasi, chairman of the organization's steering council, made a speech at the meeting. On behalf of the country's youth he expressed full support for the new stage of the April revolution and firmly condemned the schemings of internal and external reaction against the gains of the working people of the DRA. He condemned U.S. imperialism's and China's expansionist plans with regard to Democratic Afghanistan, plans which are a threat to peace in the region and around the world. The leaders of the Youth Organization of Afghanistan highly appreciated the Soviet Union's unselfish fraternal assistance to the people of the DRA in various fields, including that in the cause of repelling the threat to the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan. He called on the country's youth to issue a resolute rebuff to the intrigues of reaction and imperialism.

BAKHTAR DENIES 'FABRICATIONS' ABOUT KABUL CLASHES

LD171144 Moscow TASS in English 1131 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kabul, February 17, TASS--The BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY is resolutely rejecting the fabrications by Western propaganda machine which, with reference to various rumours, is trying to present the situation in the country and in the Afghan capital, in particular, in a distorted way.

III. 19 Feb 80

D 10

USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
SOUTH ASIA

In a commentary circulated here the BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY described as absolutely groundless the reports by Western news agencies and radio stations about clashes that allegedly took place in Afghan Army units stationed on the outskirts of Kabul.

The aim of such fabrications, the agency stressed, is quite evident. Losing their positions with every passing day, the enemies of Afghanistan and the April revolution resort to various conjectures. Such propaganda, the commentary emphasizes, cannot make the Afghan people swerve off the right road of life.

AFGHANISTAN'S APRIL REVOLUTION EXPERIENCING 'DIFFICULTIES'

LD172105 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1930 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kabul--Viktor Bazilevich reports:

Armed interference in the internal affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is continuing. Enemies of the April revolution (?resort to) open armed struggle and try with brutal terrorist acts to frighten the Afghan people and to distract them from peaceful labor.

An exhibition organized by the security organs of the republic displayed a large quantity of weapons seized at the mercenaries' bases which have been rendered harmless recently in the areas of Parwan, Lowgar, Paktia and Zarghun Shahr. On show were automatic rifles, machine guns, pistols and other weapons of American, Chinese and Pakistani manufacture.

A representative of the security organs of Afghanistan stated that armed sorties by bands of mercenaries trained in Pakistan are continuing. Counterrevolutionary ruff-raff and marauders are burning villages and houses, destroying schools, humiliating children, women and old men and killing peaceful inhabitants under the cover of Islamic slogans.

The increasing imperialist pressure on Afghanistan arouses concern and worry. The April revolution is now going through a period of difficulties but in spite of this, a representative of the security organs said, new supporters for us appear every day among the workers. They are defending their power and revolutionary gains selflessly from the intrigues and incitements of the forces of internal reactionaries and imperialism.

SOVIET-AFGHAN CINEMATOGRAPHY PROTOCOL SIGNED

LD181636 Moscow TASS in English 1522 GMT 18 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Kabul, February 18, TASS--A working protocol has been signed here on cooperation between the Ministry of Information and Culture of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR State Committee for Cinematography. The document determines the areas of cooperation between the two countries in creating joint films and in exchanging documentary films.

The signed protocol, BAKHTAR AGENCY points out, is a further step in the cooperation of the film makers of the two friendly countries.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON HENG SAMRIN VISIT TO USSR

Tbilisi Talks with Shevardnadze

LD151005 Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 5 Feb 80 pp 1,3 LD

[GRUZINFORM report: "Cordial Meeting on Georgian Soil"]

[Excerpt] On 3 February at the Georgian CP Central Committee E.A. Shevardnadze, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Georgian CP Central Committee, met with a delegation from the Kampuchean National United Front for National Salvation (KNUPNS) and People's Revolutionary Council headed by Heng Samrin, chairman of the KNUPNS Central Committee and chairman of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Council.

P.G. Gilashvili, Z.A. Pararidze, G.V. Kolbin, T.N. Menteshashvili and O.Ye. Cherkeziya were present at the conversation.

Only a few days ago, E.A. Shevardnadze said, welcoming Heng Samrin and the other Kampuchean guests, the Kampuchean people celebrated the first anniversary of the victory of the country's revolutionary patriotic forces. Like all Soviet people we endorse the cordial congratulations sent to you on this occasion by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev and A.N. Kosygin.

It is a special honor for our republic and our people to be the first to receive the glorious emissaries of the heroic Kampuchean people arriving in the Soviet Union on their first official, friendly visit. Wherever you have the chance to go in our country you will feel the warm hearts of Soviet people, who are well aware of the price you paid for your great victory.

We all keenly felt the tragedy of the long-suffering Kampuchean people as if it were our own calamity, our own grief. And today we are inexpressibly happy that your republic has embarked confidently on the path of building a new life and that the grim consequences of the bloody pro-Beijing dictatorial regime of Pol Pot and his myrmidons are being successfully overcome under the leadership of the People's Revolutionary Council.

Soviet people, E.A. Shevardnadze stressed, express solidarity with the Kampuchean people struggling for their independence and social progress.

Talking about the activity of the CPSU and the Soviet Government, E.A. Shevardnadze noted that it is characterized by the successful solution of the large-scale tasks of the country's socioeconomic development outlined by the 25th CPSU Congress.

The Soviet Union, he went on, consistently pursues a policy of peace and friendship among the peoples and joins the other socialist community countries in advocating the strengthening of international security, the broadening of international cooperation and the creation of a just democratic system of mutual relations between countries.

E.A. Shevardnadze familiarized the Kampuchean comrades with various aspects of Georgian life.

Heng Samrin expressed cordial gratitude for the cordial reception for the delegation. Despite the late hour, he said, the leaders of the republic and numerous representatives of the Georgian capital's working people came to meet us. It was a striking manifestation of Soviet people's respect and sympathy for the Kampuchean people.

Comrade Heng Samrin talked about the situation in his country.

"We had to start from scratch--this is a fact, not an exaggeration. Some 150 enterprises--almost our entire industry--lay in ruins. The infrastructure, above all the highways and transport facilities, had been destroyed, which means we are having difficulties in getting food to people in poverty-stricken provinces. Pol Pot and his clique had gambled on implementing the Maoist slogan "The countryside surrounds the city" and had forcibly moved people out of the cities into rural localities, setting up Chinese-style "communes" and "labor armies" which were nothing but concentration camps. But despite the massive influx of people into the countryside our agriculture, once among the most flourishing in Southeast Asia, was completely undermined. But none of this compared with the scale of the suppression and destruction of individuals. Pol Pot and Ieng Sary deliberately perpetrated systematic genocide against their own people, stating "Out of 8 million we will leave 1." In the 3 years and 8 months of their rule around 3 million people were killed, tortured or died of starvation or disease. The intelligentsia, the student body, employees and experienced cadre workers were the primary targets for annihilation. When we say we inherited scorched earth we mean also that the best people, the flower of the nation, could have been building a new Kampuchea today, but they have been killed...."

Comrade Heng Samrin's account of the period of the pro-Beijing regime's rule paints a frightful picture of medieval barbarism. All Kampuchean were branded as belonging to a particular caste or "category"--in accordance with their degree of loyalty to the regime. Money was abolished, a barter system was introduced, marriage was prohibited, spouses were parted, newly weds were executed. No one had the right to own personal property. For the slightest "offense" people were beaten with hoes and bamboo sticks and stabbed with bayonets.

When you hear the facts of Kampuchea's recent past you wonder: Who wanted this to happen and why? How can you deliberately destroy an entire people? There is only one answer: following in the wake of the policy of the hegemonist Beijing rulers, its puppets were intent on creating "lebensraum" for themselves and carrying out the instructions of Mao Zedong: "We absolutely must get Southeast Asia...."

"Had it not been for the people's revolution and the assistance of fraternal Vietnam," Heng Samrin said, "Pol Pot would undoubtedly have accomplished his monstrous design.

"Yes, we are starting literally from nothing; it is very difficult for us at the moment, but with the help of our brothers from the socialist community countries, above all the Soviet Union, we will resurrect Kampuchea.

"Our people express sincere gratitude to the CPSU, the Soviet Government, Comrade L.I. Brezhnev personally and the fraternal people of the USSR for their tremendous support and assistance in building a new society and restoring the country. The Kampuchean people's unbreakable friendship with the peoples of the Soviet Union and the other socialist community countries is the guarantee of victory over the intrigues of the imperialists and Beijing expansionists."

The conversation took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Leningrad Talks with Romanov

LD151011 Leningrad LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA 8 Feb 80 p 1 LD

[LENTASS report: "Guests from Kampuchea in Leningrad"]

[Excerpt] Yesterday G.V. Romanov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Leningradskiy Obkom, received in the Smolnyy the delegation of the Kampuchea United Front for National Salvation and the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea, headed by Heng Samrin, chairman of the Kampuchea National United Front for National Salvation Central Committee and chairman of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Council, which is in Leningrad.

During the conversation G.V. Romanov told the guests of the basic directions of the Leningrad party organizations activity in implementing the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and the CPSU Central Committee November (1979) Plenum and the tenets and conclusions contained in the program speeches of Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. The delegation members were acquainted with how Leningraders are developing socialist competition in honor of the 110th anniversary of V.I. Lenin's birth and how they are preparing for the elections to the RSFSR Supreme Soviet and to local organs of power.

Leningraders, as indeed all Soviet people, wholly approve the results of the Soviet-Kampuchean talks in Moscow and express feelings of sincere sympathy with the courageous Kampuchean people as they build a new life, G.V. Romanov said. He stressed that the visit to the Soviet Union by the Kampuchean delegation is an important step in strengthening friendship between the two countries.

Pen Sovan, deputy chairman of the People's Revolutionary Council, minister of national defense and commander in chief of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Army, expressed gratitude for the cordial reception on behalf of the delegation. He declared that the Kampuchean people will exert every effort to further strengthen and develop friendship and cooperation between the two fraternal countries and will study the rich experience of socialist building in the USSR.

He noted that the recently completed Moscow talks with the Soviet delegation headed by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev are of great significance for the development of Kampuchean-Soviet relations and the deepening of multilateral cooperation. On returning home, Pen Sovan stressed, the delegation members will tell their compatriots about the tremendous achievements of the Soviet people, Leningraders included, in various spheres of economy, science and culture. In conclusion the deputy chairman of the People's Revolutionary Council, minister of national defense and commander in chief of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Army said that no force will crush the people of his country in the struggle for a new and happy life.

Editorial: Results of Visit

LD151605 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Feb 80 Morning Edition p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Solidarity with the People's Kampuchea"]

[Text] The terrible tragedy which in recent years befell the ancient Kampuchean land is one of contemporary history's darkest and bloodiest pages.

After 5 years, during which the U.S. military held sway and turned vast expanses of Kampuchean territory into smouldering ruins and dead zones, and after 4 years of rule by the Pol Pot clique of butchers who pursued a policy of mass terror under the Beijing expansionists' guidance, the Khmer nation was on the verge of total annihilation. The results of these criminal actions shocked all honest people of the world.

The historic victory of the Kampuchean revolutionary-patriotic forces in January 1979, which resulted in the overthrow of Pol Pot's antipopular regime, created real conditions for country's advancement along the path of democracy and social progress. This victory dealt a powerful blow to Beijing's hegemonist schemes and revealed new prospects for a radical improvement in the situation in Southeast Asia in the interests of peace, stability and prosperity.

The Kampuchean people's selfless struggle for the freedom and independence of their homeland, which they are successfully waging under the leadership of the Central Committee of the Kampuchea National United Front for National Salvation [KNUFNS] and the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Council [KPRC], and their efforts to restore the shattered national economy and to revive the political, social and cultural life of Kampuchean society enjoy the steadfast sympathy, support and help of the CPSU, the Soviet state and all Soviet people. The official friendly visit to the USSR recently made by the KNUFNS and KPRC delegation headed by Heng Samrin, president of the KNUFNS Central Committee and president of the KPRC, is a new and important confirmation of the strengthening fraternal friendship between the peoples of our countries and of the further consolidation and development of Soviet-Kampuchean relations.

In the course of the visit talks and discussions took place between the Soviet and Kampuchean leaders in an atmosphere of cordiality, comradely frankness and mutual understanding. Both sides noted a complete unity of views on all the questions discussed. "The Soviet Union and Kampuchea are located a long way apart but, as the talks have shown, our thoughts follow a single course," declared Comrade L.I. Brezhnev when welcoming the Kampuchean guests. "The peoples of the world now have a common concern-- to overcome the tension which is again overshadowing international relations. Detente is the sum total of multifarious efforts. It is the common gain of peace-loving states. And the reckless imperialist forces must not be allowed to spoil its fruits."

The Soviet people, says the Soviet-Kampuchean statement signed by L.I. Brezhnev and Heng Samrin, fully support the Kampuchean people's efforts aimed at building a peaceful, independent, free, democratic, nonaligned Kampuchea proceeding toward socialism, and intends henceforth to give support to the friendly people of this country in the struggle against the intrigues of imperialism, Beijing hegemonism and international reaction.

The delegation of the People's Republic of Kampuchea expressed sincere gratitude to the Soviet Union for its tremendous disinterested support and aid to the Kampuchean people in the restoration of the country, the normalization of the life of populace, and in the struggle against international reaction's dark schemes. Both delegations expressed a mutual interest in the further broadening and deepening of bilateral cooperation in various economic, technical, scientific and cultural areas. In meeting the wishes of the Kampucheans, the Soviet Union expressed its readiness to render assistance and help to the People's Republic of Kampuchea in restoring and developing various spheres of the national economy. During the visit agreements were signed by the USSR and the People's Republic of Kampuchea on economic and technical cooperation, on the delivery of Soviet goods to the People's Republic of Kampuchea in 1980, on cultural and scientific cooperation, as were a trade agreement and also other agreements on trade and economic links.

When discussing international questions, the Soviet and Kampuchean leaders paid special attention to the problems of the Asian Continent. They confirmed their mutual resolve to further the consolidation of peace and security in Asia on the basis of joint efforts by the states of this continent. The participants in the negotiations condemned the great-power hegemonist ideology and policy of Maoism as deeply hostile to Marxism-Leninism, to the interests of socialism, and to the cause of peace and the liberation of the peoples. Both delegations also decisively condemned China's new military preparations which it is carrying out in collusion with U.S. imperialism against the independence and sovereignty of the three countries of Indochina.

Evincing a sincere interest in guaranteeing peace and stability in Southeast Asia, the participants in the negotiations welcomed steps aimed at seeking a reliable ways to create an atmosphere of mutual understanding and good neighborliness in this region. "Our people only need peace to restore the country," Heng Samrin emphasized, speaking in Moscow on central television. "We are striving for the development of friendly links and broad cooperation with all countries, regardless of their political system, and above all with our neighboring countries."

It is only under peaceful conditions that the heroic Kampuchean people will succeed in ridding themselves of the terrible consequences of the tragedy they experienced in recent years. This is precisely why the struggle for peace and the security of the peoples is at the basis of the foreign policy of the People's Republic of Kampuchea. This is also why the Kampuchean people fully approve the Soviet Union's practical steps aimed at consolidating international security and reducing the threat of war arising in any region.

Warmly greeting the outcome of the now completed visit, the Soviet people express the firm confidence that the People's Republic of Kampuchea, relying on the support of the Soviet Union, the peoples of Vietnam and Laos, the other fraternal countries of the socialist community and all progressive forces of the world, will successfully build in their land a new life which will meet the expectations of the entire Kampuchean people.

SHIPS BEGIN DELIVERY OF GRATIS AID TO KAMPUCHEA

LD160222 Moscow TASS in English 1812 GMT 15 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Phnom Penh, 15 February. TASS--The Soviet Union started delivering goods to the People's Republic of Kampuchea as gratis aid planned for 1980. Five Soviet vessels with the cargoes of food products, building materials, loading and unloading equipment and port equipment arrived in Kampuchea's biggest sea port Kampong Sam.

Along with food products and necessities that constituted the bulk of the Soviet Union's gratis aid to Kampuchea last year, industrial equipment, building materials and machinery hold a considerable place in the plans for such assistance to the Kampuchean people this year. This shows that the Kampuchean people has solved a number of urgent problems of the normalization of life and is now able to pay more attention to restoring industrial enterprise, transport, hydrotechnical structures and to the development of agriculture.

Having started to export rubber to the USSR, the People's Republic of Kampuchea will be able already this year to purchase with these funds consignments of machinery and equipment in addition to the goods it receives as gratis assistance.

EIGHTH PZPR CONGRESS ENDS; NEW POLITBURO ELECTED

ID152048 Moscow TASS in English 2002 GMT 15 Feb 80 ID

[Text] Warsaw, February 15, TASS--The 8th Congress of the Polish United Workers Party ended today. It was an event of great international significance and demonstrated the loyalty of the Polish communists to the ideals of Marxism-Leninism and the principles of proletarian internationalism. The party's supreme forum demonstrated again the unbreakable fraternal friendship of the PUPW and the working people of Poland with all the socialist community. The delegates unanimously passed a resolution on the tasks of the party in further developing socialist Poland and in raising the living standards of the Polish people as well as a resolution for the maintenance of peace, termination of the arms race and continuation of the policy of detente.

The congress elected the leading bodies of the party--the Central Committee, the Central Auditing Commission and the Central Party Control Commission.

At the first plenary session of the Central Committee E. Gierek was re-elected first secretary of the PUPW, Central Committee. The following were elected members of the Political Bureau of the PUPW Central Committee: E. Gierek, E. Babiuch, Z. Grudzien, H. Jablonski, H. Jagielski, W. Jaruzelski, S. Kania, A. Karkoszka, S. Kowalczyk, W. Kruczek, J. Lukaszewicz, J. Szydlak, A. Werblan, T. Wrzaszczyk; alternate members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee--K. Barcikowski, J. Pinkowski, T. Pyka, E. Wojtaszek, Z. Zandarowski.

In his final speech E. Gierek said that the congress took place in a businesslike, working atmosphere, stressing that it is necessary to transfer this atmosphere to the party organizations and to factories. It should reign throughout the country. The speaker said that the program drawn up by the 6th Congress of the PUPW, facilitated the modernization of the country's material and technical basis and made it possible to achieve considerable progress in improving the working and living conditions of the entire people. Edward Gierek told the congress delegates that P. Jaroszewicz asked not to put forward his candidature for the Political Bureau of the PUPW Central Committee and to relieve him of his duties as chairman of the Council of Ministers because of his retirement on pension. P. Jaroszewicz has always fought and worked for the good of his homeland, and was one of the organizers of the implementation of the party program in the seventies.

Turning to foreign policy matters, S. Gierek said that the 8th Congress of the PZPR reaffirmed the correctness of the policy followed by Poland in the international arena. We shall strengthen our positions which guarantee the sovereignty and independence of the Polish People's Republic. We shall strengthen our alliance with the USSR, the unity and might of the socialist community. Poland will continue to do everything possible for strengthening peace and detente. We urge all forces of the world to take steps to deepen detente and international cooperation. We especially urge the states of Western Europe to refrain from a new dangerous spiral of the arms race in our continent and to protect the historic achievement--the Final Act of the European conference. We also address this appeal to the United States.

[Moscow TASS in English at 1356 GMT on 15 February 1980 adds: "It passed a resolution 'On the Party's Tasks in Further Developing Socialist Poland, and in Raising the Living Standards of the Polish People' as well as a resolution on the comprehensive development of the Vistula and the use of the country's water resources. It also adopted a resolution 'On the Maintenance of Peace, Termination of the Arms Race and Continuation of the Policy of Detente.' The congress urged the working people of Poland to support the congress's resolution as the basis of a platform of the Popular Unity Front at elections to the Sejm and voivodship people's councils."]

III. 19 Feb 80

F 2

USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
EASTERN EUROPE

Babiuch New Premier

LD181730 Moscow TASS in English 1722 GMT 18 Feb 80 ID

[Text] Warsaw. February 18, TASS--A session of the Sejm of the Polish People's Republic was held here today. The Sejm met the request of Piotr Jarowsewicz to relieve him from the post of chairman of the Council of Ministers. Edward Babiuch, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, has been approved as new chairman of the Council of Ministers of Poland.

CPSU Central Committee Greetings

LD151431 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Feb 80 p 1 LD

[Text of CPSU Central Committee greetings to the Eighth PZPR Congress]

[Text] To the Eighth PZPR Congress

Dear comrades!

On behalf of Soviet communists and the entire people of our country we send warm fraternal greetings to the delegates to the Eighth PZPR Congress and, through you, to all communists and working people of Poland.

Your congress summarizes the results and determines the next targets of the great creative work to build a developed socialist society in Poland. It is an inspiring and also complex task. You are resolving it by relying on the revolutionary gains of the working class and on the results of the Polish people's selfless labor over the 35 years of the country's development along the socialist path.

As your brothers in arms in the struggle for the common cause we are proud that People's Poland has in a short period of history become one of the leading, economically developed states of the world. We wholeheartedly wish you success in raising your motherland's economy and culture to new heights and in further progress toward improving people's existence and everyday life and increasing Poland's prestige in the international arena still further.

Dear comrades!

One of the most important among the many advantages of socialism is the creation of favorable social conditions for the friendship and fraternal cooperation of peoples from different countries. Relations between the Soviet Union and Poland are an excellent example of this. For several decades now our peoples have been actively cooperating in all spheres of human activity. Never before have the ties between our national cultures been so profound and rich. Our socialist states effectively coordinate their actions in the international arena in accordance with the friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance treaty. The CPSU and the PZPR, jointly with the other fraternal parties, are making a worthy contribution to rallying the forces of the world communist and worker movement on the only true, Marxist-Leninist foundation.

We value highly this multifaceted collaboration and view it as the remarkable result of the consistently internationalist policy of our fraternal parties, which accords with the fundamental interests of both countries and of the entire socialist community.

III. 19 Feb 80

F 3

USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
EASTERN EUROPE

We assure you, friends, that we will continue to strengthen the combat alliance with Polish communists and develop the cooperation of our peoples.

Long live the PZPR--the vanguard of its country's working class, the leading force of development along the path of socialism!

May the friendship and solidarity between the CPSU and the PZPR and the Soviet Union and Poland strengthen in the struggle for the triumph of the great cause of communism!

Long live the teaching of Marx and Lenin--the banner of the communist movement's victories!

[Signed] CPSU Central Committee

Return of Suslov Delegation

LD151758 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1706 GMT 15 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, 15 February, TASS--The CPSU delegation headed by Mikhail Suslov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee, returned to Moscow today. It had been taking part in the work of the Eighth Congress of the Polish United Workers' Party.

TANJUG CITED: TITO'S CONDITION REMAINS GRAVE

LD191506 Moscow TASS in English 1436 GMT 19 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Belgrade, February 19, TASS--TANJUG agency reports that as announced by the concilium of medics, the general state of health of Yugoslavia's President Josip Broz Tito remains grave. After active methods of treatment symptoms connected with kidney insufficiency have lessened. Other necessary measures of intensive treatment are being taken.

YUGOSLAV-GDR COMMUNIQUE STRESSES DETENTE, DISARMAMENT

LD151342 Moscow TASS in English 1257 GMT 15 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Berlin, February 15, TASS--The need for more active efforts in the activity to protect peace and international security is stressed in the communique released here on the official friendly visit by the President of the Federal Executive Council of the Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia Veselin Djuranovic to the GDR and his talks with Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the GDR Willy Stoph. The sides stated that there is no reasonable alternative to the policy of peaceful coexistence. The document says that a general and complete disarmament is of decisive significance for safeguarding a lasting peace and international security. In this connection the document highly appraises all the initiatives which tend to limit armaments and to create prerequisites for effective disarmament.

KULIKOV SEES ZHIVKOV, TODOROV IN SOFIA

LD111557 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Feb 80 p 3 LD

[Text] Sofia, 6 February, TASS--T. Zhivkov, first secretary of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of the Bulgarian State Council, and S. Todorov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers, have received Marshal of the Soviet Union V.G. Kulikov, commander in chief of the Warsaw Pact Joint Armed Forces. Army General D. Dzheurov, Bulgarian minister of national defense, was present at the conversation, which took place in a cordial and comradely atmosphere.

VANCE VISIT TO TRY 'TO SMOOTH OUT DIFFERENCES' WITH PARIS

LD190818 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0500 GMT 19 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Cyrus Vance, the U.S. secretary of state, is to pay a visit to Paris on Thursday for talks with Jean Francois-Poncet, the French foreign minister. AP sees the visit as an attempt to smooth out the differences that have arisen between the two countries. They have been caused by France's unwillingness to submit to Washington's pressure and to take part in the anti-Soviet campaign which the latter has mounted. France's latest move was to refuse to take part in a conference of foreign ministers of the West European countries on the so-called Afghan question. In the opinion of the French Government, such measures contradict the policy of detente.

IZVESTIYA RIDICULES UK ATTEMPTS TO PRESSURE SOVIET UNION

LD151519 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Feb 80 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[Correspondent V. Skosyrev "Letter from London: "A Chronic Ailment"]

[Excerpt] London, February--In the second half of the last century, when Britain ruled the waves and possessed vast colonial empires, London followed a policy of "splendid isolation" in Europe. The essence of that policy was that without forming an alliance with any one European state, Britain could nonetheless exercise a decisive influence on the correlation of forces on the Continent. Now a number of local commentators are expressing concern that the British ruling circles are trying to revive that old-fashioned policy in present conditions.

What specifically has caused these fears? Above all, London's belligerent reaction to events in Afghanistan and Iran and its readiness to applaud Washington's irresponsible and adventurist acts aimed at undermining detente. Criticizing Britain's view of events in Southwest Asia, THE GUARDIAN commentator P. Jenkins writes that uncontrollable events in the Muslim world must not be permitted to jeopardize detente in Europe. Another author writes in the same newspaper that Britain enjoys the reputation among the NATO countries of the most obedient U.S. client whose belligerence is in inverse proportion to its influence in the international arena.

Realism and restraint are qualities particularly necessary to leaders of major powers in periods of exacerbation of international tension. As the weekly paper THE OBSERVER wrote, West Europe does not want the achievements of detente to be relegated to the archives. This stance, in the weekly's opinion, reflects a realistic assessment of the existing situation in which there is no alternative to detente. As for the British Government, it has not only approved all Washington's militarist steps, but is even trying itself, as far as opportunities permit, to add fuel to the fire of the anti-Soviet ballyhoo in the West.

Clear confirmation of this is provided by M. Thatcher's speech during a parliamentary debate on events in Afghanistan. Steeped in the "cold war" spirit, this speech reflected the Tories' old desire to restore the British presence east of Suez. Apart from that, under the pretext of opposition to the Soviet Union London intends to increase "assistance" to Beijing and the pro-Western regimes in the Persian Gulf and to seek the adoption of "sanctions" against our country by West European countries.

Foreign Secretary Carrington has announced a list of "reprisals" affecting, in particular, trade and cultural ties between Britain and the USSR. London has decided not to extend the credit agreements concluded in 1975, to restrict opportunities for British firms to export equipment to our country, to reduce exchanges in cultural and other spheres and to increase the number of anti-Soviet broadcasts transmitted abroad daily by the BBC. Finally, the Conservative Cabinet has launched a campaign for a boycott of the Moscow Olympics.

It is hardly necessary to recall that the British Conservatives have tried to pressure the Soviet Union more than once in the past. Those attempts failed in difficult times for our country, when we were encircled by hostile capitalist states. They are doomed to failure today too. Many representatives of the ruling party are aware of that. The government's actions have been criticized in the House of Commons, for instance, by none other than former Prime Minister E. Heath.

In leftwing circles London's anti-Soviet acts are arousing indignation and concern. During the parliamentary debate Labor members of Parliament J. Lamond and E. Ross stressed that protests about a "violation of Afghan sovereignty" are hypocritical. The cause of the crisis was interference on the part of the United States, Britain and China, which financed, trained and sent into Afghanistan those who opposed the legitimate government.

THATCHER 'HYSTERICALLY, CYNICALLY' BACKS OLYMPIC BOYCOTT

LD181522 Moscow TASS in English 1515 GMT 18 Feb 80 LD

[Text] London, February 18, TASS--Recently the British Parliament witnessed an unusual happening. Put up for discussion was the decision of the International Olympic Committee on the holding of the summer Olympic games in Moscow. Making much ado about their democratism, British members of Parliament usually declare that they discuss whatever they want to discuss. This time democratism had nothing to do with the discussion.

Parliament was addressed by the British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Sidestepping the National Olympic Committee she urged British sportsmen "not to go to Moscow." The British press noted that the prime minister got so carried away that she had almost hysterically declared that the Moscow Olympics, like the 1936 games in Berlin, would be used mostly for propaganda purposes. Labour members of Parliament received this statement with cries of "nonsense."

Nobody will deny that the British premier was at least cynical when she compared the 1936 games of the period of the raving speeches of Hitler and Goebbels with the present situation. If anything does remind of 1936 it is rather the pathological hatred for the Soviet system, state and people that the British prime minister is repeatedly demonstrating in her shrill speeches.

Mrs Thatcher's statement was rebuffed by representatives of British sports organizations. Thus, Secretary of the International Athletics Clubs D. Johnson said that despite pressure put on by the prime minister he would recommend the committee to support participation of British athletes in the Moscow Olympics.

Why, it can be asked, is the holding of the Olympic games in Moscow such an irritant to Mrs Thatcher? She assures that there is no spirit of the traditional cooperation of states in Moscow, that Moscow does not regard the Olympic movement as a demonstration of strength and youth, as a unifying moment of the youth of all countries. But Mrs Thatcher needs all these inventions as eyewash. Judging by everything, Mrs Thatcher is least concerned about sport.

She is blinded by anti-Sovietism and by the desire to play up to the election campaign sentiments of American politicians. But should all this be introduced into sport? This question is being asked in many countries of the world.

DPA: APN ACCUSES FRG OF VIOLATING BERLIN AGREEMENT

LD152012 Hamburg DPA in German 1848 GMT 15 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Moscow--Moscow again today accused the Federal Republic of violating the Berlin Agreement. Last year the West German authorities increasingly undertook steps aimed at including West Berlin in the Federal Republic's state and legal system, a report published today by the semiofficial Soviet news agency APN says. Last week Soviet Ambassador to the GDR Petr Abrasimov claimed that the Federal Republic and the West Berlin Senat are trying to interpret arbitrarily, to bypass or even grossly violate the agreement.

APN says that West Berlin had been "provocatively" treated just like a federal state. "Thus various FRG laws and decrees of the Federal Government were declared valid for West Berlin, which represents a gross violation of this city's status and the key regulations of the quadripartite agreement." APN also refers to trips by Bonn politicians to Berlin, parliamentary group sessions in the former Reichstag building and other instances of an FRG presence which, in the agency's opinion, cannot be reconciled with the Berlin agreement.

ITALIAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS BALK AT COALITION WITH CP

LD172128 Moscow TASS in English 1949 GMT 17 Feb 80 LD

[TASS correspondent Aleksandr Smirnov report]

[Text] Rome, February 17, TASS--The 14th National Congress of the Christian Democratic Party [DC] the biggest bourgeois party of Italy, is taking place here in an atmosphere of sharp disagreements and increased differences between different groups and trends within the party.

In his report to the congress the party's political secretary B. Zaccagnini admitted that Italy is now in the grip of a grave economic and social crisis. In this connection he said that the measures taken to resolve the crisis were inadequate.

Much of his statement was devoted to the problem of relations between principal political parties. As a condition for including Italian Communist Party representatives in the government, B. Zaccagnini actually demanded a change of the Communist Party's policy so that the Christian Democratic Party and Communist Party hold identical views on economic questions, questions of struggle against terrorism and international issues. It is only in this case, he said, that there can be talk of a government including representatives of the Communist and the Christian Democratic parties.

In the section of the report dealing with international affairs, the DC's political secretary reaffirmed the devotion of his party to NATO and the Common Market.

In the centre of attention during the discussion of the report were relations with the Communist Party and possibilities for establishing a coalition government because the current economic, social and political difficulties cannot be resolved without cooperation with the Italian Communist Party, the second biggest political party of the country, in running the state. But discussions at the congress showed that the Christian Democrats want at any price to remain in power.

The rightwingers inside the party continue to hold conservative and anticommunist positions in disregard of a changed situation in the country and a new alignment of political force. It is said here that the leaders of certain rightwing groupings, including A. Fanfani, the current president of the Senate, are prepared to face a protracted government crisis and even pre-term parliamentary elections to prevent cooperation with the communists. In this policy they use the support of the right wing conservative forces in other West European countries. The leader of the West German Christian Democrats, H. Kohl, who was present at the congress as guest, made a scandalous statement, saying that it was "unthinkable to run a state jointly with communists." He also urged the Italian Christian Democratic Party to support any steps of the United States and to help strengthen the NATO bloc.

The newspaper L'UNITA describes Kohl's statement as absolutely inadmissible interference in the internal affairs of the Christian Democratic Party and Italy as a whole, an attempt to put pressure on the delegates of the DC congress.

PONOMAREV MEETS WITH ITALIAN CP AIDES INGRAO, CIOFI

LD170205 Moscow in Italian to Italy 1730 GMT 16 Feb 80 LD

[Text] On 15 February, at the CPSU Central Committee a meeting was held between Boris Ponomarev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee, and Comrades Pietro Ingrao, member of the Directorate of the Italian Communist Party [PCI], and Paolo Ciofi, member of the PCI Central Committee.

In the course of the conversation, held in a climate of sincere fraternity, an exchange of views took place on current problems of the world situation, and also on problems of the relations between the PCI and the CPSU.

ACADEMICIAN DISCUSSES PROSPECTS FOR MADRID CONFERENCE

LD151055 [Editorial Report LD] Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 10 February 1980 publishes on page 2 a 600-word Soledad Gallego-Diaz undated interview in Brussels with Grigoriy I. Tunkin, described as "a member of the USSR Academy of Sciences and chairman of the Soviet International Law Association, an expert on the Helsinki Final Act and one of those in charge on the Russian side of preparing for the Madrid CSCE conference." He maintains that the aim of the CSCE conference should be "to revitalize the spirit of detente," asserts the boycotting the Olympic games "would be a further means of helping to destroy detente" and claims that the "threat" to Afghanistan "is increasing."

AYATOLLAH KHOMEYNI THANKS BREZHNEV FOR GREETINGS

LD191059 Moscow PRAVA in Russian 16 Feb 80 p 2 LD

[Text] Moscow--Ayatollah Khomeyni, leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has sent a telegram to Leonid Brezhnev, president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, expressing gratitude for the congratulations on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Islamic revolution in Iran.

Expressing sympathies to the friendly people of the Soviet Union, the telegram says in particular, we hope that international peace will be built on the principles of the peoples' independence, non-interference in domestic affairs of one another and respect for the territorial integrity of the countries in this part of the world.

IRAN'S BANI-SADR COMMENTS ON CONDITIONS FOR HOSTAGES' RELEASE

Italian TV Interview

LD152044 Moscow TASS in English 1847 GMT 15 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Rome, February 15, TASS--Iranian President Bani-Sadr said in an interview with the Italian television that the release of the staff members of the American Embassy depends not only on whether there will be an inquiry into the shah's crimes but also on whether Washington will guarantee Iran's "geopolitical and economic independence." If the United States answers in the affirmative and our demands meet with a due response we, for our (?part) shall act very quickly, he said.

If the United States wants our economy and our armed forces to be dependent on it Iranian-American relations will not be normalized. He recalled that beginning with 1953 the CIA-controlled American Embassy in Tehran was the real government of Iran.

The United States, the president said, had established in the country a political system under which Iranians were tortured and killed en masse. This is evidenced not only by documents but also by survivors, men and women, who were crippled as a result of torture. Can our people remain quiet and obedient at a time when even now they are witnessing unceasing provocations and interference, the president said.

NEWSWEEK Interview

LD181006 Moscow TASS in English 0827 GMT 18 Feb 80 LD

[Text] New York, February 18, TASS--Abolhassan Bani-Sadr, president of Iran, in an interview with the U.S. NEWSWEEK magazine, stated that the release of the U.S. hostages in Tehran is dependent on the United States' meeting the conditions put forward by the people of Iran.

Abolhassan Bani-Sadr said the USA should condemn its past policy with regard to Iran, promise to cease interference in the internal affairs of Iran in the future and also should not obstruct the efforts of Iran which is seeking extradition of ex-shah and his entourage guilty of corruption and other crimes.

The president of Iran pointed out that the United States had quite inadmissibly intervened in Iran's internal affairs. We are seeking a condemnation of U.S. expansionist attitude and also want the public opinion in America to get to know what really takes place in our country, he emphasized.

QOTBZADEH VIEWS HOSTAGE SITUATION; NOTE TO WALDHEIM ON CANADA

LD161436 Moscow TASS in English 1400 GMT 16 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tehran, February 16, TASS--Iranian officials have refuted the rumours that the U.S. hostages will be released immediately after an international commission is set up for investigation into the crimes of the former shah against the Iranian people. In his statement made after the meeting with Ayatollah Khomeyni, Iranian President Bani-Sadr said that the main condition for the release of the hostages is the acknowledgment by the United States of its former vicious policy against Iran and renunciation by Washington of interference in Iran's internal affairs in the future as well as the commitment of the United States not to prevent the efforts of the Iranian authorities directed at returning into the country the deposed shah and the wealth plundered by him.

Paris, February 16, TASS--Iranian Foreign Minister Qotbzadeh said upon his arrival in the French capital that announcement of the results of activity by the international commission for investigation into the crimes of the former shah will not mean an automatic release of the hostages. For a settlement of this problem, he pointed out it is necessary that all parties in the conflict should recognise the decisions of the commission. Qotbzadeh also said that Washington has so far made no positive steps for ending the 104 day dispute with Iran. (104 days have passed since the seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Teheran).

New York, February 16, TASS--The Iranian Foreign Ministry has addressed a note to the U.N. secretary general strongly protesting against the unlawful actions of Canada, which arranged for the unlawful departure of six Americans from Iran. As is known, this "operation" carried out on direct instructions of Canadian Prime Minister Clark and U.S. President Carter included the issue to the Americans of false Canadian passports and forged official Iranian visas. This is a graphic example of hypocrisy, says the note, characterising the feigned adherence of the Canadian Government to the principles of international law and indicating that all means are used for ensuring home policy benefits. The Iranian Foreign Ministry cannot but evaluate this action as a serious breach of trust, a crude abuse of diplomatic privileges granted to the Canadian Embassy, violation of sovereignty and crude interference by the Canadian Embassy in Teheran in the country's internal affairs.

The document stressed that Canada's stance is typical for the approach of the imperialist powers to the Third World countries. It is well known, the note by the Iranian Foreign Ministry says, that the problem of refugees emerged because in the revolutionary atmosphere formed our people is wrathfully protesting against the systematic violation by the U.S. administration of international law and trampling by it of our national rights and aspirations in the course of a quarter of a century since the coup d'etat staged by the CIA in August 1953.

ANTI-U.S. THRUST VIEWED IN IRAN REVOLUTION CELEBRATIONS

LD151335 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Feb 80 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[Correspondent A. Akhmedzyanov report: "Iran: -First Anniversary"]

[Text] Tehran--The entire Iranian people celebrated the first anniversary of the revolution's victory over the many centuries of monarchic despotism.

III. 19 Feb 80

H 3

USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

From early in the morning the streets of Tehran were full of holiday crowds of citizens heading for Freedom Square, where there was to be a military parade and demonstration. It was raining and snowing alternately all day, but the bad weather did not dampen people's enthusiasm. More than 2 million Tehran residents joined the festival marches.

Guests from various countries came to the celebrations of the Iranian revolution anniversary. Yasir 'Arafat, leader of the Palestinian Liberation Organization was on the platform together with A. Bani-Sadr, the republic's first president.

The telegrams of congratulations from Leonid Ilich Brezhnev to Ayatollah Khomeyni, leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran and President Bani-Sadr on the first anniversary of the Iranian revolution were received warmly in Iran. In their report on the message Iranian radio and television imparted L.I. Brezhnev's words expressing the hope that relations between the two countries will continue to be based on the principles of friendship and good neighborliness and noninterference in each other's internal affairs and that their further development on this basis will serve the cause of peace and international security.

The well-known politician Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni read out a message from Ayatollah Khomeyni to the Iranian people on the first anniversary of the revolution's victory. In his message the leader of the Iranian revolution noted the revolution's tremendous significance for the liberation movement of other peoples in the world and called on the Iranian people to "continue their struggle against the bloodthirsty and aggressive United States until such time as political, military, economic and cultural dependence on the United States is completely eliminated."

Ayatollah Khomeyni noted that Iran "supports all nations and peoples under imperialist oppression in their struggle to gain freedom and independence." He appealed to the African and other awakened peoples to unite and rally their ranks. Ayatollah Khomeyni assured the peoples of Lebanon and Palestine of support for their struggle against Israel, which he called a "center of criminality" which has always served as a "U.S. outpost" in the region.

A military parade followed, with the participation of various categories of Iranian Army troops. Festival demonstrations and military parades also took place in the country's major cities: Tabriz, Mashhad, Esfahan, Rasht and others.

IRAN REQUESTS AID FOR KHUZESTAN FLOOD VICTIMS

ID151208 Moscow TASS in English 1137 GMT 15 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tehran, February 15, TASS--Iran has turned to all countries of the world with a request for relief aid to begin as soon as possible to victims of an inundation in the southern Province of Khuzestan. As was reported, as a result of the flood caused by heavy rains, 24 villages and large territories have been flooded. A total of 200 people died in the flood. President A. Bani-Sadr of Iran personally directs the organisation of rescue operations.

III. 19 Feb 80

H 4

USSR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

DMITRIYEV COMMENTS ON OPENING OF ISRAELI EMBASSY IN CAIRO

LD181124 Moscow World Service in English 0900 GMT 18 Feb 80 LD

[Text] The Israeli flag will be hoisted in Cairo today over Israel's first embassy in an Arab country. We bring you a comment by our observer Igor Dmitriyev:

The leading Egyptian newspapers have dedicated (?several-lined) reports to the occasion. Buried on inside pages of the AL-AHRAM and AL-AKKHBAR and ignored by other newspapers altogether, the news about the hoisting of the Israeli flag is being obviously played down in Egypt. The present atmosphere contrasts sharply from the euphoria of the first steps undertaken by Egypt and Israel several years ago to cement the separate deal. The Egyptian gains from the separate deal have been so few thus far they can be counted on one hand. One of them is the Israeli withdrawal from the two-thirds of the Sinai Peninsula. Cairo's ambitious objective of carrying the torch of liberation on to the Israeli-occupied Arab lands has been a dismal failure. Israel is still occupying some part of the Sinai and is doggedly expanding her control of the West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip.

Realizing that Cairo is completely isolated in the Arab world Israel exploits this weakness. Cairo is trying hard to convince others that it follows an independent political line, but in reality Egypt's dependence on Washington is greater than ever before. In exchange for American arms Egypt has offered her territory to be used by the U.S. Armed Forces against the Arab countries. Egyptian officers are training Afghan terrorists and sending them to Afghanistan with Egyptian arms. By interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, Egypt has been acting on orders from the United States.

One of the proposed residences for the Israeli Embassy in Cairo is the former mission of the Palestine Liberation Organizations. The sight of the Israeli flag flying over the PLO Mission in Cairo could be the logical result of the Israeli triumph and the Egyptian humiliation. For this reason the Israeli Embassy may be opened at some other place but the fact that the idea of turning the PLO Mission into the Israeli Embassy has been considered is eloquent enough.

EGYPTIAN PROGRESSIVE PARTY PROTESTS NORMAL TIES WITH ISRAEL

LD190030 Moscow TASS in English 2137 GMT 18 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Cairo, February 18, TASS--An official ceremony was held in the Cairo district of Dokki to inaugurate an Israeli Embassy. The building over which a Zionist flag has now been hoisted is under the reinforced police protection. The approaches to the embassy are being scanned by special [words indistinct] cameras, lorryfuls of soldiers wait at side streets and snipers are on duty on the roofs of the nearby buildings.

The extraordinary security measures with regard to the Israeli Embassy testify to the fact that local authorities are wary of the growing popular discontent over the "normalization" of relations with Israel. The tightened police control, however, cannot silence the voice of the Egyptian public which protests against the coming to Cairo of the unwanted guests from Tel Aviv.

The General Secretariat of the National Progressive Unionist (Left) Party of Egypt has come out with a statement calling on all Egyptians, irrespective of their political beliefs, to boycott cooperation with Israel and to do everything possible to block the economic and political expansion of the Zionist state.

The "normalization" of the Egyptian-Israeli relations, the document says, is taking place at a time when Israeli troops continue occupying part of the Sinai Peninsula, Jerusalem, the West Bank of Jordan and the Golan Heights.

The Egyptian-Israeli "peace", the statement stresses, is passed off by the As-Sadat regime as "a key to prosperity." In actual fact, however, the Egyptians are being witness to a continuous growth of prices of staple foods and other products. What prosperity can there be when the military budget for the current year is up 10 percent over last year's military spending? The authorities assert that the Egyptian-Israeli peace will open up the path towards democracy while in effect, however, taking further steps to restrict freedom in the country. Having severed all ties with the Arab and the Moslem world, with the movement of nonalignment, says the statement by the National Progressive Unionist Party, the Egyptian authorities have flung wide the doors to U.S. imperialism and world Zionism thus jeopardizing the security and independence of the country.

The Egyptian people, however, the document says, will not reconcile itself to this situation. It will never be taken in by the hypocritical words of Tel Aviv leaders who, while talking glibly about peace, are dropping bombs on Lebanon and Palestine and preparing a new aggression in Syria. The duty of every Egyptian is to put an end to Israel's penetration in the Arab Republic of Egypt, be that in the field of politics, economy, trade, propaganda or ideology.

SYRIAN OFFICIAL DENOUNCES EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT

LD181438 Moscow TASS in English 1424 GMT 18 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Damascus, February 18, TASS--TASS correspondent Aleksandr Zhudro writes: The people and Government of the Syrian Arab Republic wrathfully condemn the Camp David accords concluded between Israel and the Egyptian regime with the active participation of the United States and under its patronage, a TASS correspondent was told by the prominent public figure and statesman, Chairman of the Syrian Parliament's Commission for Arab and Foreign Affairs Muhsin Balal. These accords, he said, contradict the United Nations decisions on the Palestine problem and the Middle East conflict in general and are a rude violation of generally accepted norms of international law. By interrupting the commencing process of search for an all-embracing and just settlement in the Middle East, the separate deal resulted in an aggravation of the situation in this explosive region of the world.

As-Sadat's attempts to speak on behalf of the Palestinian people turned out to be untenable, Balal noted further. While ignoring the sole lawful representative of the Palestinians--the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Egyptian ruler agreed to the Zionist projected "administrative autonomy" for the population of the Israeli-occupied West Bank of the Jordan and the Gaza Strip. The purpose of this project is to perpetuate Israel on the territories it seized by force.

The Iranian and Afghan revolutions dealt a serious blow at the positions of the United States. In an attempt to preserve its influence in that area American imperialism is resorting to a policy of military ventures. It wants to suppress the Islamic revolution in Iran and at the same time to pose as a "protector" of Moslems in Afghanistan. Washington got mixed up in its own lies and showed its true countenance--that of a vicious enemy of any progressive changes in the world.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON SYRIAN DELEGATION'S MOSCOW VISIT

Departure for Home

LD111532 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1200 GMT 11 Feb 80 LD

[Text] The Syrian Ba'th Party delegation headed by 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, deputy general secretary of the party, today left Moscow for home. The delegation paid a visit to the Soviet Union in answer to the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee. During his presence in the Soviet Union, 'Abdallah al-Ahmar and his companions had meetings with comrade officials in the CPSU Central Committee. Questions of interest to both sides were discussed during the meetings.

'Abdallah al-Ahmar in a statement he made to Moscow Radio correspondents said: This visit was a new step in consolidating Soviet-Syrian relations which are developing in the interest of the peoples of the Soviet Union and the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Syrian delegation was seen off at the airport by Ivan Kapitonov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Gennadiy Sizov, chairman of the Central Auditing Committee of the CPSU Central Committee and other officials of the CPSU Central Committee.

Joint Communiqué

LD151405 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Feb 80 p 4 LD

[Text of "Joint Communiqué on Talks Between CPSU and Ba'th Party Delegations"]

[Text] A Ba'th Party delegation headed by 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, deputy general secretary of the Ba'th Party, was in the USSR from 4 through 11 February at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee.

During the Ba'th Party delegation's stay in Moscow meetings and talks were held attended from the Soviet side by A.P. Kirilenko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; B.N. Ponomarev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; I.V. Kapitonov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; G.F. Sizov, chairman of the CPSU Central Auditing Commission, and K.N. Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department; and from the Syrian side by 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, deputy general secretary of the Ba'th Party; 'Isam al-Qadi, member of the Ba'th Party leadership; Ahmad al-Hasan and Muhammad Zaydan, members of the Ba'th Party Central Committee; 'Izzat Hasan and 'Aziz Darwish, Ba'th Party apparatus executives, and Jabir al-Kafri, Syrian ambassador to the USSR.

During the talks, which took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere, the CPSU and Ba'th Party representatives exchanged information on their parties activity and discussed questions of the further development of cooperation between them and also certain topical international problems, primarily the Near East situation.

The CPSU delegation talked about the CPSU's political and organizational work on the fulfillment of the 25th CPSU Congress decisions in the sphere of foreign and domestic policy and the 10th 5-Year Plan targets. It was stressed that the Soviet Union is steadily pursuing, in the current exacerbated international situation, a line directed toward implementing the program of further struggle for peace and international cooperation, for freedom and independence of the peoples and is resolutely acting in defense of detente and against the arms race.

The Soviet representatives talked about the nationwide movement in the country to mark V.I. Lenin's 110th birthday with new achievements in the sphere of economic and cultural building.

The Ba'th party delegation familiarized itself most attentively with the activity of the CPSU--the leading and directing force of Soviet society and with the Soviet people's great successes in various spheres. The Syrian guests noted the CPSU's and Soviet state's outstanding contribution to the strengthening of peace and international security and to the prevention of a new world war.

The Syrian side expressed sincere thanks to the CPSU for its unfailing and firm support of the Arabs' just cause and the peoples' struggle for independence and social progress. It stressed the paramount significance of friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union and the other socialist community states in terms of defending and safeguarding the fundamental interests of the Arab peoples.

The Ba'th Party delegation talked about the party's political and organizational activity and the major gains achieved by the Syrian Arab people in different spheres and gave a detailed account of the decisions of the Seventh Ba'th Party Regional Conference on Economic, Political and Social Questions. It was noted that the conference confirmed the need to step up the joint activity of the national progressive front participants since this contributes to increasing the activeness of the masses, to strengthening national unity in the struggle against the intrigues of imperialism and Zionism and their agents inside the country, resorting to terror under cover of religion and to further developing the economy in order to improve the people's living standards and build a socialist society.

The Ba'th Party representatives stated that Syria firmly opposes the Camp David agreements and the Egyptian regime's treacherous policy and the expansionist ambitions of the Israeli ruling circles and their imperialist patrons.

The CPSU delegation familiarized itself most attentively with information on significant transformations in various spheres of life implemented under the leadership of the Ba'th party in the Syrian Arab Republic in accordance with its people's historic option in favor of a socialist society. In this connection mention was made of the importance of the decisions of the Seventh Ba'th Party Regional Conference which outlined a progressive program in the sphere of domestic and foreign policy.

The CPSU representatives made a high assessment of the anti-imperialist course of the Syrian Arab Republic which is in the forefront of the Arab national liberation movement. They stressed the great importance of the recent Damascus conference of the foreign ministers of countries in the National Front of Steadfastness and Resistance which exposed imperialism's designs in the Near and Middle East.

The Soviet side confirmed its principled position of solidarity with the Arabs' struggle against Israeli aggression. There was confirmation of both sides' determination jointly to continue the struggle to achieve a just and all-embracing settlement in the Near East on the basis of the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from all the Arab territories they occupied in 1967, including the eastern part of Jerusalem and the implementation of the inalienable national rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including their right to self-determination and the creation of their own independent state and also the Palestinians' right to return to their homes in accordance with existing UN decisions.

The exchange of views on the present world situation confirmed the proximity of the CPSU and Ba'th Party positions on the main international problems, including cardinal problems of the struggle for universal peace and security of the peoples, relaxation of tension and disarmament.

On behalf of their parties the talks' participants resolutely condemned the expansionist policy of American imperialism which has recently stepped up its intrigues against peace and against the security and freedom of the peoples and is vigorously stoking militarist sentiments and perpetrating overt interference in other countries' affairs. This policy, directed toward undermining detente, which is in keeping with the aspirations and interests of all peoples, had led to the complication of the international situation and has intensified the danger of war.

Both delegations stressed that by spreading slander about the Soviet Union, the national liberation movement and all peace-loving forces and by fueling an artificial ballyhoo over the events in Iran and Afghanistan, imperialism and its accomplices are seeking to mask their aggressive course and isolate the Arabs and other struggling peoples from their natural allies--the Soviet Union and the other socialist community countries.

Imperialism and Zionism would like to distract the attention of the Arabs and all Muslims from the capitulationist Camp David agreements, the continuing occupation of Arab territories and the trampling of the national rights of the Arab people of Palestine and from the neocolonialist threat to the developing countries. Under cover of anti-Soviet propaganda the United States, in close alliance with the Egyptian regime and Israel, is trying to knock together military blocs in the Near East area and set up a network of American military bases. The sides stated that they resolutely oppose these plans and the separate deals.

The talks' participants declared their condemnation of the unending aggression against Lebanon by Israel which is enjoying imperialist support and Israel's interference in Lebanon's internal affairs which is an obstacle to the restoration of peace and security there. They confirmed their continuing desire to promote the normalization of the situation in Lebanon on the basis of safeguarding its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity.

The CPSU and Ba'th Party representatives stated that they support the Iranian revolution and the Iranian people who are defending their freedom, sovereignty and national resources against encroachments by American imperialism and demand an end to the policy of blackmail and threats which the United States is pursuing vis-a-vis Iran.

The sides confirmed the need to respect Afghanistan's will to defend its land, territorial integrity, the unity of the homeland and its policy of nonalignment.

The talks participants sharply condemned the NATO decision, taken on the insistence of the United States, to deploy new American nuclear missiles in Western Europe which entails the intensification of the arms race and endangers peace in Europe and throughout the world.

Great attention was devoted at the talks to questions of the development of friendly ties between the CPSU and the Ba'th Party. A mutual desire was expressed to continue developing and expanding these ties in the interests of further deepening comprehensive cooperation between the USSR and Syria for the good of the Soviet and Syrian peoples, for the good of peace and social progress.

The CPSU and Ba'th Party representatives stressed the usefulness of further developing contacts at various levels to discuss topical questions of relations between the two parties and also other problems of mutual interest. The sides expressed their parties' intention to continue making an all-round contribution to broadening cooperation between social organizations in the USSR and Syria for the purpose of achieving a more profound mutual acquaintance with the life, labor and achievements of the two countries' peoples.

A plan for ties between the CPSU and the Ba'th Party in 1980-1981 was signed during the talks.

Commentary on Talks

LD131515 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1200 GMT 13 Feb 80 LD

[Unattributed commentary: "Useful Soviet-Syrian Contacts"]

[Text] Talks have taken place in Moscow between leaders of the CPSU and the Syrian Socialist Arab Ba'th Party. The discussions underlined in particular the fact that the continuation of promoting contacts at all levels to discuss urgent issues connected with relations between the two parties and other issues of concern to both countries are beneficial to both sides. The Moscow talks dealt first of all with urgent international issues and the current situation in the Middle East. The Soviet and Syrian sides stressed their determination to continue the struggle to reach a just and comprehensive settlement in the region on the basis of the withdrawal of all Israeli forces from Arab territories occupied by Israel in 1967, including East Jerusalem. They also stressed implementing the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian Arab people, including their right to self-determination and the right to create their independent state.

A joint communique issued on the results of talks between leaders of both parties points out that both sides firmly denounce the expansionist policy of U.S. imperialism. The United States, the communique adds, is trying, under the cover of anti-Soviet propaganda and closely allied with the Egyptian regime and Israel--to form military alliances and set up U.S. military bases in the Middle East region. The two sides expressed complete opposition to these plans and separate deals.

The CPSU and the Syrian Socialist Arab Ba'th Party denounced the artificial propaganda clamor being waged by imperialism and its supporters over events in Iran and Afghanistan. By this these forces are trying to cover up their aggressive course and also to isolate the Arab peoples and other struggling peoples from their natural allies--the Soviet Union and other members of the socialist community.

In this respect the delegation of the Syrian Socialist Arab Ba'th Party expressed sincere gratitude to the USSR for its firm and continued support for the just cause of the Arab peoples and for the peoples' struggle for independence and social progress. The CPSU delegates highly appreciate the anti-imperialist course being pursued by the Syrian Arab Republic, which is in the forefront of the Arab national liberation movement.

PRAVDA REPORTS 13 FEB USTINOV SPEECH TO KOVROV VOTERS

LD151343 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Feb 80 p 2 LD

[TASS report on 13 February meeting in Kovrov between D.F. Ustinov member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, USSR defense minister and candidate deputy to the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, with voters of Kovrovskiy Electoral Okrug, Vladimirovskaya Oblast, under the rubric "Working People's Election Meetings": "For the Sake of the Fatherland's Might; Voters' Meeting With D.F. Ustinov"]

[Excerpt] D.F. Ustinov, who was warmly welcomed by the voters, delivered a speech. He expressed sincere thanks to all collectives and working people of Kovrov who had nominated him candidate deputy to the RSFSR Supreme Soviet.

I wholly attribute the trust shown in me to our dear Communist Party, its Central Committee and the Central Committee Politburo headed by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, D.F. Ustinov said.

It is with profound satisfaction and joy that I fulfill Leonid Ilich's honorable assignment and convey to you, dear comrades, his cordial greetings and good wishes for robust health, prosperity, happiness and great new labor successes for the welfare of our great motherland!

These words were greeted with tumultuous, prolonged applause.

For over 15 years Leonid Ilich Brezhnev has headed our party's Central Committee--its combat staff. In this period remarkable new heights have been scaled in communist creation. The Soviet Union is marching confidently in the vanguard of man's social progress and acts as the standard-bearer and bulwark of peace.

Soviet people link all their successes with the wise, all-embracing leadership of the CPSU and its Central Committee and with the tireless and fruitful activity of Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

A moving expression of the recognition of Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's outstanding merits and tremendous contribution to the building and defense of the new society is his unanimous nomination as the first candidate deputy of all the people in all corners of our boundless land!

The elections to the soviets of people's deputies are a festival of socialist democracy and an important new frontier in the development of our state of all the people, the candidate deputy emphasized. This year the preparations for the elections have been marked by great political and labor enthusiasm among the Soviet people. This enthusiasm stems from the fact that the land of the soviets has entered the concluding stage of the struggle to implement the historic decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and to fulfill the targets of the 10th 5-year plan. It also stems from the fact that this year is the year of the 110th anniversary of Vladimir Ilich Lenin's birth and the 35th anniversary of our victory in the Great Patriotic War. This enthusiasm stems from the fact that the preparation of the party and entire Soviet people for the 26th CPSU congress has begun everywhere.

The present election campaign is again showing convincingly and graphically how enormous and truly inexhaustible is the creative, constructive potential of mature socialist society. [paragraph continues]

The meeting between candidate deputies and voters taking place in all the union republics demonstrate the firmness and indestructibility of the bloc of Communists and nonparty people and the great unity of the thoughts, aspirations and efforts of all Soviet people closely rallied around the Communist Party.

The party is the living soul, cementing force and tested militant vanguard of our people. In it Soviet people see the mind, honor and conscience of the era. They trust the party boundlessly. Behind the party they are marching unswervingly along Lenin's road, along the road of communism.

Our party subordinates its multifaceted activity to concern for the welfare and happiness of Soviet people. This concern permeates all the CPSU's work. It embodies Lenin's strategic line toward the unserving consolidation of the country's economic and defense might, the improvement of the people's wellbeing and the all-round prosperity of the socialist motherland.

D.F. Ustinov went on to dwell on some of the achievements of the Soviet Union, the RSFSR, Vladimirskaia Oblast and Kovrov in economic, sociopolitical and cultural development.

Soviet people have responded warmly to the party's appeal to turn 1980 into a year of shock work, of Lenin-style work. And that means that we must interpret our labor as part of the nationwide struggle for the building of a new society and for the triumph of communist ideals. That means achieving an all-round improvement in efficiency and quality, discipline and organizations in all echelons and at all levels, the maximum return from assets and labor invested, and the obtaining of the best end results. It means seeing the long term, assessing in an exacting, self-critical manner what has been done, not closing our eyes to shortcomings, eradicating them resolutely, making rational use of resources and displaying a solicitous attitude toward the people's property.

A clear, scientifically substantiated program for our country's further socioeconomic development is outlined in the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee November (1979) Plenum and the speech delivered at the plenum by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev. This program has been interpreted by Soviet people as a guide to action.

The main tasks indicated by the Central Committee plenum consist in considerably raising the country's energy potential, oil, gas and coal extraction and rolled metal, machinery and consumer goods production improving the work of transport and increasing mineral fertilizer production. The focusing of efforts on the development of these key links in the economy is of tremendous significance for the overall upsurge of the national economy, for the attainment of the goals to which the year's plan, like all previous plans, is subordinated and for the further improvement of the people's life.

The speaker emphasized the need to put into operation all reserves for improving production efficiency and output quality. With a view to further intensifying production it is necessary to introduce more actively a comprehensive system for controlling the quality of output and work using all factors incorporated in this system.

As for agricultural production, here too it is important to seek a resolute upsurge in its economic efficiency.

Then D.F. Ustinov dwelt on certain questions of foreign policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state.

History teaches us, he said, that peace is necessary for the successful solution of constructive tasks. The CPSU and the Soviet state pursue an invariable Leninist foreign policy course--the course of peace, detente and disarmament. This course is defined by the peace program elaborated by the 24th and 25th CPSU congresses. It enjoys the support of all progressive mankind.

The steady consolidation of the international positions, influence and authority of the Soviet Union and the entire socialist community has led to profound changes in the correlation of forces in the world in favor of socialism. Imperialism's opportunities for disposing of the peoples' destinies as it sees fit have shrunk considerably. The utter hopelessness of its attempts with the aid of force, including military force, to resolve in its favor the historical dispute with socialism has become obvious. The West has been obliged to acknowledge the principles of peaceful coexistence as the only sensible basis for relations with socialist states. In the seventies these principles became a widely established part of the practice of international relations. The relaxation of tension has become the determining trend of world development. It has borne tangible fruit for mankind.

Summing up everything achieved thanks to detente, Comrade L.I. Brezhnev stressed in his replies to the PRAVDA correspondent: "...The main thing we have succeeded in doing is to break the tragic cycle of world war followed by a brief interval of peace followed by world war again. We Soviet people and our friends--the peoples of the fraternal socialist countries and all those who have struggled and continue to struggle for peace, detente and peaceful coexistence among states with different social systems--are rightly proud of this historic result."

However, the normalization of the international situation, as we can see, does not suit reactionary imperialist circles. Even under the conditions of detente they have not ceased and do not cease for a single day material preparations for war. The United States and the other NATO countries are constantly building up their military budgets and intensifying the arms race.

The United States sets the tone for all the West's military preparations. In 10 years it has doubled its expenditure for these purposes. Washington's new 5-year military program provides for the further growth of the arms race. Thus, in fiscal 1981 the United States plans to allocate over \$160 billion, or over 25 percent of the country's entire budget, for militarist purposes. And in 1985 it is planned to spend \$250 billion for these purposes.

Alongside the buildup of military preparations, the candidate deputy said, the U.S. administration is attempting to mobilize all forces of international reaction, militarism and aggression to fight detente and to unite them on an anti-Soviet, anti-socialist basis. It is striving persistently to undermine the established friendly relations between the socialist and liberated countries and to split and suppress the national liberation and revolutionary-democratic movements. Washington is seeking at any price to make other states, above all its NATO partners and dependent developing countries, accomplices in its actions.

Of course, the peoples of the developing countries will find out who is their friend and who their enemy, who wishes them real progress, peace and security and who is pushing them to the dangerous brink of military conflicts.

U.S. imperialism's actions are fully supported by the Beijing rulers, who unreservedly sacrifice the Chinese people's national interests to their own great-power designs.

Washington and Beijing are using the present events in Afghanistan to aggravate tension in the world. The real reason for these events is that, having lost an important bridge-head in Iran, the United States intended to create its own military base in Afghanistan and to bring it close [priblizit] to our country's southern borders. And although its designs failed thanks to the Soviet Union's timely aid to Afghanistan, this drove the present pretenders to world domination to an extreme state of malice and gave rise to a sharp outburst of bellicose hostility against the USSR. Resorting to the most disreputable lies and slander, the enemies of detente are shamelessly distorting the meaning of our friendly aid to the Afghan people. They are seeking to ascribe to the Soviet Union aggressive intentions which are alien to it.

Reality, however, has nothing in common with this. Loyal to its international duty, the Soviet Union has always rendered and continues to render fraternal aid and support to the peoples struggling for their independence and sovereignty and for their revolutionary gains. It is precisely with this noble mission that limited contingents of our armed forces were sent to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to help the Afghan people repel outside aggression at the Afghan Government's request and in accordance with the Soviet-Afghan treaty.

Imperialist and reactionary forces are trying to depict the Afghan events and the USSR's role in them as reasons for the exacerbation of the international situation. But this is merely a propaganda cover-up for the hegemonist designs of Washington and Beijing. In fact the threat to the peoples of the Near and Middle East stemmed and continues to stem not from the Soviet Union but from U.S. imperialism and Chinese hegemonism.

The very emergence of the Afghan question was a consequence of the aggressive U.S. global policy. It was preceded by the development of an undeclared war against Afghanistan by the American imperialists and Chinese hegemonists, by the artificial postponement of ratification of the SALT II treaty, by the NATO decision to produce and deploy American medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe and by the concentration of an armada of American ships in the Persian Gulf for the purpose of a naval blockade of Iran and blackmail of other countries in the region. All these are interconnected elements of an aggressive U.S. policy, a policy of diktat and hegemonism.

This policy received overt expression in the so-called "Carter doctrine," whose essence is graphically revealed by the measures being taken by the United States to arm and train gangs of rebels driven out of Afghanistan by the revolution. Washington is hastily increasing arms supplies to Pakistan with a view to turning it into a new strongpoint of American imperialism in the Middle East and into a base for aggressive actions against the Soviet Union and Afghanistan.

The world's peoples have a right to expect a more balanced and responsible policy from the leaders of such a big power as the United States. But so far these expectations are not being justified. [paragraph continues]

It would not be out of place to remind Washington strategists gambling on force of historical experience. This shows that such a gamble with regard to the land of the Soviets has inevitably failed.

Aggressive aspirations are alien to the Soviet Union as a socialist state. Our country does not want either political domination of the world or to change the existing system in other states with the help of force. We do not need to extend our state borders. But we will defend most resolutely what belongs to the Soviet people and what their hands have created. And all lovers of military adventures and all who are fond of playing with fire should remember this!

Our country is engaged in peaceful creative labor, the USSR defense minister said. The valiant USSR Armed Forces are the reliable guard of its security and the bulwark of world peace. They are linked by indissoluble bonds to the Soviet people, live by the same thoughts as them and are a mighty, cohesive combat monolith. Thanks to the constant concern of the party, the government and the entire Soviet people and thanks to the splendid successes of the Soviet economy, science and technology, our army and navy possesses the most modern weapons and everything they need for the crushing defeat of any aggressor!

We thank the Communist Party, the Leninist Central Committee, our great Soviet people and everyone who is concerned for the material and technical equipping of our army, who creates mighty weapons for it and who puts his soul and talent into them!

But our army is not only strong in terms of weapons. Soviet soldiers have been educated in the Marxist-Leninist teaching, which is the inexhaustible source of their ideological maturity, communist conviction and high moral and combat qualities. The Soviet people can rest assured that their sons, their armed defenders are utterly true to the heroic traditions of their grandfathers and fathers, bear aloft the combat banners covered with the glory of victories and will continue to do so worthily. They are always ready for exploits in the name of our socialist homeland!

Speaking of the combat might of our armed forces, it should be emphasized that we threaten no one with it. Everything we do to strengthen this might is determined by the framework of essential defense. We have been forced to improve it in response to imperialism's aggressive intrigues and with just one purpose--to insure the security of our country and of our allies and friends.

The Soviet Armed Forces stand guard over socialism and peace in single combat formation with the Warsaw Pact countries' armies. This year will see the 25th anniversary of the founding of our defensive alliance. Its combat might serves a just cause and objectively accords with the interests of all freedom-loving peoples. We will continue strengthening our socialist community's unity and might in every possible way.

It is widely known that military service in our country is an important link in the education system. Comrade L.I. Brezhnev has spoken of this repeatedly. He himself passed through the stern army school. He has the Great Patriotic War behind him. He has in-depth knowledge of the life and activities of today's armed forces. And his remark that those who have been through the school of military service "can be relied on both in peaceful creative labor and, if it comes to that, at the hour of military trials" resounds like a conclusion drawn from Leonid Ilich's tremendous experience of life, like a political assessment of great significance.

The aims which our armed forces have always served and now serve are lofty and noble. Soviet soldiers know very well what they are defending and against whom. They regard service in the armed forces as their honorable duty. Our country's young people prepare responsibly and earnestly to fulfill it. Party and soviet organs, the Lenin Komsomol, the country's labor collectives, schools and every Soviet family show great concern for preparing and educating a worthy replenishment for the army and navy. We are sure that our armed forces will continue to feel this concern. We see it as a very important condition for steadily raising the combat might and combat readiness of the army and navy.

In a few days' time our country will solemnly celebrate the 62d anniversary of the Soviet Army and Navy. Soviet soldiers are greeting this glorious date with new successes in combat and political training. They are making every possible effort to resolve the tasks facing them and are persistently mastering modern arms and the means and methods of making effective use of them in combat.

Soviet people can live and work calmly. Our armed forces are always at a high level of combat readiness and are capable of dealing an immediate crushing rebuff to any aggression, from wherever it might stem!

In conclusion D.F. Ustinov gave an assurance that he will make every effort to justify the high trust of the voters who have nominated him their candidate deputy to the supreme organ of state power in the RSFSR.

GROMYKO COMMENTS ON FOREIGN ISSUES IN ELECTION SPEECH

LD181954 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 18 Feb 80 LD

[Text] The voters of the Kaliningradskiy Constituency outside Moscow today met with their candidate deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR, Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of foreign affairs.

The participants in the meeting enthusiastically elected the honorary presidium comprising the CPSU Central Committee Politburo headed by Comrade Brezhnev. Agent Morozov, a turner of the mechanical works, spoke about the life of the candidate deputy.

Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko, who was warmly welcomed by those present, said: [begin recording]

Dear comrades: Permit me to express profound gratitude to the voters of the Kaliningradskiy Constituency of Mosovskaya Oblast for nominating me as candidate deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR.

A leading place in the country's state and public life belongs to the soviets of peoples' deputies and their multimillion member aktiv. The work of the soviets is living testimony to the advantage of socialist democracy over bourgeois democracy which, according to Lenin's accurate definition, has always been narrow, hypocritical and false, and has always remained a democracy for the rich and a deception for the poor.

Our people and the party are quietly summing up the results of the path already trodden and are developing plans for the future, demonstrating their willingness for good relations with other peoples, for disarmament and peace. In the United States matters are somewhat different.

Presidential candidates, aspiring candidates and even those aspiring to be aspiring candidates are competing among themselves to incite chauvinistic passions. Obligations to international agreements are being questioned or cruelly violated. The capital previously accumulated or inherited from earlier presidents of positive deeds in mutual relations between states is being squandered, just as the notorious American democracy is showing its true face. It is being acknowledged throughout the world that in the recent decade--the 1970's--an important change for the better has occurred in international relations. This historic achievement became possible, first and foremost, due to the fact that the Soviet Union and the other fraternal socialist countries have placed their powerful potential on the scales of peace. It is precisely due to the efforts of the Soviet Union, which implemented the peace program of the 25th CPSU Congress, and the efforts of our friends and allies, which has met with the support of other peaceloving states, that at the outset of the 1980's a new phenomenon--relaxation of tension--has emerged in international politics. There came into being a number of international documents which contain something in the nature of rules in interstate relations. The most significant of them is the Final Act of the all-European conference. Definite limits were placed on one of the most dangerous trends, the arms race. A provisional agreement was signed in 1972 between the USSR and the United States on the limitation of strategic offensive weapons. An important and major step on that same path was the signing last year of a Soviet-U.S. treaty which is commonly known as SALT II. Unfortunately, this new treaty has still not been implemented because there are influential circles in the United States acting against it, who are adopting a position of continuing the arms race, including in the field of strategic arms. These actions put a stamp on the entire foreign policy of the United States.

Nevertheless, there is every reason to say that detente has been entered too firmly into the tissue of international relations and that it has too many advocates in the world for one country to have the monopoly in deciding its fate. Detente lives and breathes despite the trials to which it is being subjected and despite the present attempts of the U.S. administration to ring its death bells.

At the turn of the 1970's and into the 1980's a new turn toward cold war again revealed itself in Washington's policy. It began long before the Afghan events, over which political hysteria has broken out in the United States taking on a particularly ugly form in the atmosphere of the pre-election presidential campaign. In May, 1978, NATO adopted a decision to automatically increase each year the military spending of the bloc's states right up until the end of this century.

The course directed toward the arms race was also expressed in the recent NATO decision which, incidentally, had been taken before the events in Afghanistan and which concerns the production and deployment of U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in certain West European countries. Both these things were done under U.S. pressure. At the same time, the United States announced a new program providing for a sharp increase in its armaments.

It is precisely in the atmosphere of this militaristic orgy in Washington that the ratification of the SALT II treaty was first delayed and then postponed. The common aim of all these actions is clear: to break the existing approximate parity, the equality in military strength of the East and the West, or, to be more precise, of the Soviet Union and the United States; and to try and gain superiority over the socialist community. Moreover, it is apparent that the White House is not taking too much trouble to ask itself the question of whether this course is realistic.

We have repeatedly stated, on the most authoritative level, that we will not let this happen. The Soviet Union's capacity to stand up for its legitimate interests will continue to be maintained properly. Those who determine U.S. foreign policy and that of its NATO allies camouflage their aims with fabrications about Soviet foreign policy.

Cock-and-bull stories, in particular concerning our aid to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, are being piled up, one on top of another.

Everything points to the fact that the failure of their plans regarding Afghanistan--to turn it into an American military bridgehead--was swallowed very painfully on the other side of the ocean.

The Soviet Union did not have and does not have aims other than to aid the Afghans to rebuff external aggression. Leonid Ilich Brezhnev has recently given a profound elucidation of this question. The Soviet Union will act in accordance with his elucidation. Assertions alleging the emergence of some arcs of crises and tension are currently stated in Washington. What does the very term arc, encompassing Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, the Near East, South Yemen, Ethiopia and certain other countries, stand for? I do not know where they found this arc and whether it exists in geography at all.

However one thing is clear. All this is merely the product of a sick imagination. In Washington they are yielding more and more to the temptation to play the China card. Those who venture to play these games are taking risks. This is a game which is dangerous for the cause of peace. Peace-loving states cannot fail to draw appropriate conclusions from this regarding their policy and their security. They are drawing these conclusions.

Is not Washington's policy with regard to Iran an indication a self-exposure of this? The events in Iran constitute its internal affairs and no one from outside has the right to interfere in them.

A propaganda barrage is now aimed at Iran. Its goal is to prove that Iran should forget U.S. sins: blackmail, threats, insults, humiliations and attempts to reopen its doors for a U.S. military, economic and political return to Iran.

This propaganda is invariably flavored with a large dose of hostility toward the USSR. But it is to be supposed that the reasons why this is being done are well known in Iran.

Who, whenever the Muslim states attempt to gain control of the natural wealth that belongs to them and to dispose of it as they see fit, comes out with threats against them, including the threat to use force to make them bend to the will of the American monopolies, always ready to trample underfoot the rights of any people should they diverge from their appetites? This is being done by the United States, which is now trying to present itself as the friend of Islam. The Soviet Union has been and remains the friend of the peoples of the East, the friend of the peoples of the Muslim world. And the demagoguery of those who try to blacken our foreign policy in the eyes of the Muslim peoples will continue to crumble before the truth of the facts.

Our policy is one of principle. It has but one foundation. In a speech on 4 February, which drew an exceptionally broad and positive international response, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev said: The peoples of the world now have a common concern--to overcome tension which is again overshadowing international relations. Detente is the result of varied efforts, the common gain of peace-loving states, and the reckless imperialist forces must not be allowed to waste its fruits.

He went on to stress: Every road is for us acceptable and welcome if it leads to a firm peace. The Soviet Union believes that all talks in the field of curbing the arms race and of disarmament, which have started in recent years at various international forums and on a bilateral level, but which for one reason or another have been suspended or postponed, should again be resumed and continued. The Soviet Union is ready to conduct them on a constructive basis. We reaffirm our readiness to attend appropriate talks on questions of disarmament regarding Europe if the NATO decision on U.S. medium-range nuclear missile weapons in Europe is repealed or at least if its implementation is officially suspended. The NATO countries are aware of our position. The interests of lessening military confrontation on our continent would be met by calling a conference on military detente and disarmament in Europe. We will also continue to seek accord at the Vienna talks on the reduction of arms and armed forces in central Europe which have now resumed. The Soviet Union will do everything in its power to promote the successful work of the meeting of representatives of member countries of the all-European conference scheduled for this fall in Madrid.

The foreign policy course which was proclaimed in the decisions of CPSU congresses and which is laid down in the USSR Constitution, is unshakable and no one is in a position to divert our country from this well-regulated and reliable course. [applause]

The party and its Leninist headquarters--the Central Committee and the Central Committee Politburo headed by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev--enjoy the highest respect and prestige of the people. The Soviet people react with warmth, tenderness and love for the outstanding state and political figure of the present day, the leader of our party and people, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev. [applause]

With a sense of great satisfaction I convey to you and all the working people of the constituency from Leonid Ilich the best of good wishes, success in your work and personal prosperity. [applause]

Entering the 1980's the Soviet people look to the future with confidence, and there is every reason for this. These reasons lie in the party's true domestic and foreign policy and the whole people's undivided support for this policy. [applause] [end recording]

[Moscow TASS International Service in Russian at 1603 GMT on 18 February adds:

["There is no disputed issue of intergovernmental relations, no major international problem, upon which we would not be ready for honest negotiations, for negotiations on an equal basis.

["We more than once--and at the most authoritative level--have declared that we will not allow this. Leonid Brezhnev spoke about it to the U.S. President in Vienna. The Soviet Union's ability to stand up for its own legitimate interests will continue to be maintained in the appropriate way.

["The world is well aware today of the chain of events in Afghanistan and around Afghanistan and the sequence of those events. Certain officials in the U.S. capital are still unable to pull together their shattered nerves. But that is bad. They should look after their nerves. These words apply particularly to those people who unswervingly speak about the Soviet Union in a high-handed manner.

["The Soviet Union, the minister said, does not have, and has not had in the past, any other aims than to assist the Afghans in repelling the aggression from outside. Leonid Brezhnev recently elucidated this question profoundly. The Soviet Union will act in the way that was outlined in his elucidation."

["Gromyko went on to say that the present U.S. policy suggests that 'there they sometimes have difficulty seeing the difference between what belongs to them and what belongs to others.' 'The danger is, he underlined, that this has already begun to become a habit. They speak about Iranian oil, for instance, as if discussing the destiny of their own backyard. They talk about Arab oil fields as if they were the outskirts of the United States.'"]

["But surely Washington's policy with regard to Iran is self-revelation for Washington, Andrey Gromyko went on to say. For decades the United States supported the shah's regime, and now, Gromyko stated, when the Iranian people is making the first steps towards consolidating its independence, the friends of the shah's regime are resorting to direct threats against Iran. Declaring that the Soviet Union has decisively opposed any outside interference in Iranian affairs on anyone's part, Andrey Gromyko stressed: 'Our country is firmly following the line of consolidation of good neighborliness, the development of equal and mutually beneficial cooperation with Iran. The events in Iran, he said, are its internal affair, and no one has the right to interfere with them.'"]

[Moscow TASS in English at 1810 GMT on 18 February adds:

["The Organization of the Warsaw Treaty reliably protects the security of its members, Gromyko said, and there is no doubt that the 25th anniversary of the Warsaw Treaty, due in May, will become a demonstration of cohesion of fraternal countries, their resolve to firmly pursue the policy of peace and counteracting the forces of aggression.

["It is precisely due to the efforts of the Soviet Union, implementing the peace programme of the 25th CPSU Congress, the efforts of our friends and allies supported by other peace-loving states, that there arose, in early seventies, in international politics a new phenomenon--that of detente.

["With the backdrop of cases of mounting tensions and conflict situations in different parts of Asia one must single out such a major factor of stability and peace as the Soviet Union's relations with the great Asian country India. There is every ground to state that there are good prospects for the development, on the basis of the Soviet-Indian treaty on friendship and cooperation, of interaction of the two countries in the interests of consolidating peace on the Asian Continent and in the whole world. This is cooperation in the interests of peace, and nobody should be afraid of it, no country pursuing peaceful objectives.

["The Soviet Union has pursued no other objectives, except to assist the Afghan people in repelling an outside aggression. Recently Leonid Brezhnev profoundly explained the problem. The Soviet Union will be acting in a manner consistent with his explanations.

["From the very first days of its existence, the Soviet state has never encroached on either oil or any other wealth of other states, other peoples. As to the United States of America, however, its record, if one is to leaf the pages of history, is different. This is well known to Arabs, Iranians and to the peoples of many other countries, including those in Latin America. The policy of the U.S. demonstrates that there they are sometimes poor judges of the difference between what belongs to them and what belongs to others. What is dangerous is that it is already becoming a habit. For instance, they discuss the Iranian oil the way they discuss what is to be done about one's kitchen-garden. Arab oil sources are discussed as if they were U.S. backyard."]

["Imperialists wish to broaden the sphere of their military presence in areas which are situated many thousand of kilometres from their own territory.

["What for, if not for the attainment of these objectives, that the United States is creating a "quick reaction corps"--a policeman's big stick for the pursuit of imperialist policy in our day? What for, if not for this, does the United States intensify its military preparations in the Indian Ocean area, dispatch a naval armada to ply the Persian Gulf and nearby waters, expand its strategic military base on the Island of Diego Garcia, engaged in a hectic search for a place to deploy new military bases there.

["Is not Washington's policy with regard to Iran a self-exposure? For decades the United States supported the shah regime, sent huge consignments of arms to Iran, tried to turn it into a hostile bridgehead against the Soviet Union and other neighboring states.

["Nothing was of avail. What resulted was a yawning crack in American foreign policy. The people of Iran accomplished a revolution and threw the imperialist yoke off its neck. And now, when it is making the first steps towards strengthening its independence, the friends of the shah regime resort to direct threats against Iran.

["From the very beginning the Soviet Union spoke out in support of the Iranian revolution. It declared that it does not intend to interfere in Iran's internal affairs. At the same time it resolutely opposed any whatsoever outside interference into Iran's affairs.

["Our country is firmly pursuing the line of consolidating good neighborliness, the development of equal and mutually advantageous cooperation with Iran. The events in Iran are its internal matter and nobody has the right to interfere in them.

["The Soviet Union was and remains a friend of the peoples of the East, a friend of the peoples of the Moslem world. Our policy is a principled policy. It does not have any double bottom.

["Also, our country has always emphatically held that no road or path in its bilateral relations with other states should become overgrown for lack of use."

[Moscow TASS in English at 2125 GMT on 18 February adds:

["But what right does the United States of America have to others' oil sources, others' wealth? What right does it have to threaten with force other countries, to say nothing about the use of force in order to appropriate their wealth? It has no right whatsoever to this.

["Contrary to the oft-repeated inventions that the Soviet Union is allegedly striving to come into possession of some oil sources of others, it has never done that. Of this, they are well aware in the capital of the United States. It appears, however, that the factory producing all kinds of inventions about the Soviet foreign policy has launched into the world this petroleum invention in the simple hope that something of it will rub off on the minds of the people.

["The U.S. administration has also taken up the following invention. U.S. officials and propaganda institutions have of late been incessantly repeating that the Soviet Union is allegedly determined to break through to some warm seas and oceans. It is just that, as they say, it has decided to "dart to" the oceans and that's all! [as received]"

["If one is to launch a lie, then it must be of an impressive size. And this disreputable propagandist produce is again linked to the developments in and around Afghanistan.

["This invention, which, incidentally, was launched in the West quite a long time ago, under the Russian tsars and tsarinas has already been repeatedly refuted in the Soviet Union. And today it would be quite in order to say in this connection that it is not the Soviet Union that strives to obtain access to some warm waters--it has a sufficient amount of issues both into warm and cold waters--it is rather the imperialists who wish to expand the sphere of their military presence in areas situated many thousands of kilometers from their own territory. And that sphere includes, as is known, both the sea, the land and the air to say nothing about the economic means of exploitation and pressure vis-a-vis other countries and peoples.

["In a word, Andrey Gromyko said, one can perceive in the invention about our intention to break through to the warm seas the same handwriting as in the question of petroleum. They take their own plans and aspirations and ascribe them to the Soviet Union."

[Moscow TASS in English at 0625 GMT on 19 February adds:

["Andrey Gromyko further said: At present in Washington there is no lack of speeches containing assurances that, allegedly, the United States is the most devoted friend of Islam, a friend of the Moslem states.

["But do they seriously believe there that the Islamic countries have forgotten constant hostility shown by the makers of the U.S. foreign policy with regard to these countries during whole decades?

["Who has up to this date been pursuing a sharply anti-Arab position on the problem of the Arab lands occupied by Israel? Who erects obstacles on the path of a just Middle East settlement? It is the United States.

["Who is mistreating the four million Arab population of Palestine expelled by Israel from its land, and categorically objects against the restoration of its legitimate right to set up its own independent state? It is Washington.

["Who is it that each time that the Moslem states try to assume full control over the natural wealth belonging to them and to dispose of it the way they see fit begins to threaten them resorting even to threats to use force to make them submit to the will of the U.S. monopolies which are always ready to trample underfoot the right of any people if it is at variance with their appetites?

["Who is it that, holding the knife at Iran's throat, keeps a powerful naval force at its threshold in an attempt to break its resistance to a foreign diktat and to once again put on its neck a foreign yoke? This is being done by the United States, which at present is attempting to pose as a friend of Islam.

["And take Washington's support for the aggression against Afghanistan aimed at overthrowing its regime? This is occurring in conditions when Afghanistan has reliably assured the preservation of the national, Islamic traditions, respect for the Islamic religion. Strict laws have been adopted with this aim in mind.

["One can find few people who would believe Washington's assurances of selfless love for Islam, the minister said.

["The same can be said about attempts to present the Soviet Union as an opponent of Islamic states, Andrey Gromyko said. The records of the Soviet foreign policy, from the first days following the Great October Revolution, speak for themselves."

III. 19 Feb 80

R 13

USSR NATIONAL AFFAIRS
POLITICAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

["The attitude of the Soviet state to the Moslem world is exemplified by the appeal to all the Moslem working people of Russia and the East where it is written in Lenin's hand: "You yourselves must be the masters of your country... you are entitled to this because your fate is in your own hands."]

["The Soviet Union has been and remains a friend of the peoples of the East, a friend of the Moslem world."]

APPOINTMENTS, ELECTIONS REPORTED IN SOVIET REGIONAL PRESS

LD151247 [Editorial Report LD] Soviet regional newspapers in Russian report appointments and elections of officials as follows:

Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA 30 January reports on page one that the Latvian Supreme Soviet Presidium has appointed Anton Pilsovich Bril (possibly Brilya) Latvian minister of land reclamation and water resources, replacing V.N. Samolevskiy "on his retirement on pension."

Tallinn SOVETSKAYA ESTONIYA 23 January reports on page one that the Estonian Supreme Soviet Presidium, appointed Vladimir Rudolfovich Kaluson Estonian minister of the construction materials industry, replacing L.A. Vilhvelin, who was relieved of his post "for health reasons."

Frunze SOVETSKAYA KIRGIZIYA 17 January reports on page four the "retirement on pension" of Kirgiz Minister of the Meat and Dairy Industry I.G. Suyetov.

Ashkhabad TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA 16 January reports on page one the election by a plenum of S. Seytkuliyev as first secretary of Khodzhabasskiy Kirgiz Raykom, replacing R. Nazarov (no reason given) and of Dzh. Annayev as Raykom Bureau member.

TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA 26 January reports on page two the appointment of Meretmamet Khudaykuliyev as chairman of the Turkmen State Committee for Forestry.

Dushanbe KOMMUNIST TADZHIKISTANA 17 February reports on page two a plenum of Dushanbe Frunzenskiy Tadzhik Raykom held on 16 January which relieved U.G. Usmanov of his post as raykom first secretary "on his transfer to other work" and elected B. Rakhimov, "formerly deputy chief of the Tadzhik CP Central Committee Party Organizational Work Department," to replace him.

KOMMUNIST TADZHIKISTANA 26 January frontpages a Tadzhik Supreme Soviet Presidium decree dated 25 January appointing Ismoil Kurbanov Tadzhik minister of internal affairs.

KOMMUNIST TADZHIKISTANA 30 January reports on pages one and four the Tadzhik Supreme Soviet Presidium's appointment 25 January, of Khilmatullo Nasredinov as Tadzhik minister of land reclamation and water resources to replace A. Kasimov on the latter's "transfer to other work."

Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA 29 January reports on page four the "retirement on pension" of N.V. Muzalevskiy, Kazakh minister of the construction materials industry.

KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA 2 February frontpages a KAZTAG report on an undated session of Kazakh Internal Affairs ministry collegium addressed by "republican Internal Affairs Minister A.G. Playayev".

III. 19 Feb 80

R 14

USSR NATIONAL AFFAIRS
POLITICAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA 18 January reports on page two an undated plenum of Khashurskiy Georgian Raykom which relieved D.D. Bedukadze of his duties as raykom first secretary "on his transfer to other work" and elected L.M. Datiashvili to replace him.

ZARYA VOSTOKA 20 January reports on page three that the Georgian Supreme Soviet Presidium relieved G.N. Dzhibladze of his duties as Georgian minister of higher and secondary specialized education "on his transfer to other work."

ZARYA VOSTOKA 26 January reports on page three the "retirement on pension" of T.D. Bendukidze, Georgian deputy minister of local industry.

Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY 11 January reports on page three the appointment of Kurban Abas Kuli ogy Abasov as chief of the USSR Ministry of the Gas Industry's Kaspomorneftegazprom Association, replacing A.B. Suleymanov on the latter's "transfer to other work."

The same paper reports on page two the holding of two Azerbaijan Raykom plenums at which R.I. Makhmudov was relieved of the post of first secretary of Zakatalskiy Raykom "on his transfer to other work" and was replaced by A.P. Mursalov; and N.G. Rustamova was relieved of the post of first secretary of Kubatlinskiy Raykom (without further explanation) and was replaced by Z.A. Mamedov.

BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY 16 January reports on page two a Shushinskiy Raykom plenum which relieved A.A. Kerimov of the first secretaryship "on his transfer to other work" and elected N.A. Gadzhiyev to replace him.

BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY 22 January reports on pages one and four the appointment of Namik Kyamal Mamed ogy Aliyev as Azerbaijan minister of the petroleum refining and petrochemical industry, replacing K.A. Akimov on the latter's "transfer to other work."

The same paper reports on the front page the appointment of A.I. Akhundov as Azerbaijan Council of Ministers administrator of affairs.

BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY 30 January reports on pages one and four the appointment on 29 January of Nariman Gabibovich Yusifov as Azerbaijan minister of justice, replacing A.A. Mamedov on the latter's "retirement on pension."

YEREVAN KOMMUNIST 26 January reports on page three the appointment of Suren Khorenovich Oganyan as Armenian minister of the timber and woodworking industry.

KOMMUNIST 29 January reports on page two the appointment of Litvin Eligumovich Kazaryan as Armenian minister of the construction materials industry.

KOMMUNIST 26 January reports on page three a Leninakan Gorkom plenum at which Second Secretary D.A. Arutunyan was elected first secretary, replacing B.A. Arzumanyan on the latter's "transfer to responsible work in the CPSU Central Committee apparatus." Secretary R.M. Galstyan was elected second secretary, and M.A. Aguzumtsyan was elected secretary.

IMAM DISCUSSES RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOR MUSLIMS IN USSR

NC151905 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1630 GMT 15 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpts] Dear listeners: The following program has been compiled as a result of requests by some of our respected listeners.

In letters received by Radio Moscow one often comes across the question: How do pious people live in socialist countries and what rights and freedoms do Soviet Muslims enjoy? We asked Imam Mahmud (Validov), one of the leaders of the Muslim Society in (name indistinct) to reply to these questions.

[Begin recording in Tatar fading into translation] You ask how we Muslims live in a socialist country. First of all I should say that religion is a personal affair and all people enjoy complete freedom in the pursuit of religion. In the Soviet Union the church has been separated from the state. Therefore, no one intervenes in the affairs of the church.

We freely follow the religion of Islam and observe all the rules of the Holy Koran. Mosques exist practically anywhere where pious Muslims live.

Muslims, like all other people, are given free apartments. They do not pay for medical services and their children acquire knowledge in the high schools free of charge. Aged Muslims receive pension and have no worries to face in their old age. Their children have learned a profession or craft and have been given a job.

Both the pious and those who do not follow a religion enjoy equal rights which have been stated in the Soviet Constitution. In the Soviet Union there are no homeless or hungry people or people who live at the expense of others and who amass fortunes by exploiting others.

Continuing his remarks, Mahmud (Validov) says: We believe that these conditions of the Muslims in the Soviet Union are in conformity with the principles of Islam.

I want to say that living conditions in Muslim-inhabited areas of our country like all the other parts of the country, are improving daily. The Muslims, that is the Tadzhiks, Uzbeks, Turkomens and Kazakhs, together with representatives of other republics among whom are both pious people and those who do not pursue any religion, work together as members of one family.

Mahmud (Validov) says: I seize this opportunity to pray to God almighty for the health and happiness of all my correlative brethren.

GRISHIN, KUZNETSOV, YASNOV, GEORGADZE PRESENT AWARDS

LD151520 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 15 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Awards were presented in the Kremlin to engineering and technical workers of industrial enterprises, transport and construction organizations and research institutes for successes in fulfilling production plans and pledges and for mastering and commissioning many industrial capacities.

Comrades Grishin, Kuznetsov, Yasnov, Georgadze and others who presented the awards on behalf of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, the Soviet Government and Leonid Ilich Brezhnev personally, congratulated the prizewinners and wished them new successes in work to implement the decisions of the 25th party congress.

RADIO REPORTS AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS FOR 13-16 FEBRUARY

LD170150 [Editorial Report LD] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian from 13-17 February. Times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item:

13 February

In Krasnoyarskiy Kray winter has been unusually snowy this year. In some northern and western regions precipitation has been two to three times higher than average. Krasnoyarsk agricultural workers are hastily carrying out moisture retention, using the most diverse equipment. (0900 GMT)

14 February

In Tadzhikistan, Kurgan Tyube farmers, at an oblast conference of front-ranking agricultural workers, have pledged to increase the output of stronger strands of thin fiber cotton and other agricultural products. Cotton production is to be raised this year to 430,000 tons, including 276,000 tons of thin fiber cotton. Rasulov, first secretary of the Tadzhikistan Communist Party Central Committee, spoke at the conference. (0100 GMT)

16 February

Kirgizia grain growers have pledged to harvest almost 1.5 million tons of grain and to sell to the state more than 300,000 tons this year. Half the winter crops have been top dressed to date. Preparation of spring seeds has been completed. (0200 GMT)

In Saratovskaya Oblast about 600,000 tons of seeds have been set aside for spring sowing, a sufficient quantity to meet the needs of farms. More than 3 million hectares in Saratovskaya Oblast will be sown with locally adapted varieties of strong and hard wheat this spring. Over 70 percent of the prepared seed is of first class. (0530 GMT)

Belorussian agrometeorologists have completed their inspection of rye, the main winter crop. The results show that the wintering is progressing normally on the entire area, exceeding 1 million hectares. In Kirgizia, cultivators have sent more than 6,000 tons of first class corn seed to the RSFSR, Turkmenia, Azerbaijan, Armenia and Belorussia. Deliveries of hybrid seeds for the country's corn farms have almost doubled during the current 5-year plan. (2050 GMT)

HIGH VEGETABLE PRICES REDUCE PRIVATE PLOT STOCKRAISING

LD150949 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Feb 80 p 7 LD

[Article by A. Labyak, secretary of the Kamanesko-Dneprovskiy Raykom of the Ukrainian CP, under the rubric "Private Subsidiary Plot: At the Crossroads of Opinion": "In Whose Hands Is the Plot?"]

[Text] Zaporozhskaya Oblast--There have recently been certain undesirable trends in the development of the private subsidiary plots of our rayon's working people. Many villagers have begun rapidly reducing the number of livestock and have lowered their labor activity in social production. This results from a passion for truck farming. A necessary thing, you might think, but this is what it leads to.

The rayon's population centers are located on lands once washed by the Dnepr and called Kamenskiy Pod. Vegetables really thrive here. Truck farmers have drawn conclusions from this. Many have totally immersed themselves in marketable vegetable growing. Everybody counts at harvest time in the kolkhoz and sovkhoz grainfields, but hundreds of our fellow countrymen are trading in tomatoes, cucumbers and various green vegetables in distant parts.

Truck farmers are intensifying their production in order to obtain vegetables earlier and sell them at higher prices. A special commission recently studied the state of private subsidiary plots in the rayon. And this is what the analysis showed. More than 5,000 major hothouses with boilerhouses and electric heaters have been erected in the rayon without appropriate permission and in violation of construction norms and regulations. Spring polyethylene [pleochnyy] hothouses and polyethylene shelters have spread over a total area of 1,300 hectares. An irrigation network has been developed on the truck farms, more than 8,000 wells have been sunk, and metal water tanks with a capacity of up to 6 cubic meters have been placed on stands. From morning to night small pumps drone and powerful pumps operate. Almost everyone's cattle sheds are crammed with fertilizers, herbicides and other chemicals instead of livestock.

The question arises: Has this been done to satisfy personal vegetable requirements and sell the surplus at the local market? Of course not. The chief reason is pursuit of easy money. And they really receive sizable incomes, for the produce is sold not at state prices but market prices. Not long ago, a sotka [one-hundredth of a hectare] of vegetables gave a truck farmer an income of R500-600, but now it is more than R1,000. And the majority of families have plots of 15 and even 30 sotkas.

According to estimates, in 1 year truck farmers have grown and sold early vegetables worth R60-80 million in spring polyethylene hothouses and shelters alone. This is four times more than the annual wage fund of all workers in agricultural production in our rayon. The most enterprising people have cut down orchards, uprooted vineyards and slaughtered livestock, including cows. In the village of Vodyanoye, for example, there are just 13 cows left among 2,400 households. And yet 7 or 8 years ago almost every family kept a cow.

As can be seen, truck farming has become a very profitable business. As a result, approximately 5,000 able-bodied people in the rayon quite groundlessly do not participate in social production. From May through July many stop working at state enterprises and go off to trade in radishes, onions and tomatoes. At harvest time sovkhozes alone lose 20,000-24,000 man-hours because of absenteeism for that reason.

The moral harm caused by the money-grubbing use of private subsidiary plots is great.

The reader is right to ask: What is being done to counter this phenomenon? Unfortunately, there are not many effective levers. Party and soviet organs hold meetings of villagers and explain to them the laws of land use. Appropriate measures have also been taken to increase organized purchases of surplus truck farm produce from the population. Last year, for example, 115 procurement centers were opened in the rayon, and approximately 42,000 tons of vegetables worth more than R40 million were purchased in villages in accordance with contracts. And still this is not enough.

What, then, is the solution? Perhaps I am wrong in some respects but I still think that what is needed on a countrywide scale today is not only incentive measures to encourage private subsidiary plots but also measures to suppress money-grubbing tendencies.